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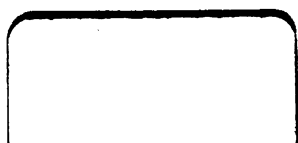
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R E P O R T S
OF
C A S E S
ARGUED AND DETERMINED
IN
The Court of Queen's Bench.

**WITH TABLES OF THE NAMES OF THE CASES ARGUED
AND CITED, AND THE PRINCIPAL MATTERS.**

BY
JOHN LEYCESTER ADOLPHUS, OF THE INNER TEMPLE,
AND
THOMAS FLOWER ELLIS, OF THE MIDDLE TEMPLE,
ESQRS. BARRISTERS AT LAW.

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AND THE CASES OF HILARY TERM AND VACATION, 1839.
IN THE SECOND YEAR OF VICTORIA.

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J U D G E S
OF
THE COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH,
DURING THE PERIOD OF THESE REPORTS.

- The Right Hon. THOMAS LORD DENMAN, C. J.
- Sir JOSEPH LITTLEDALE, Knt.
- Sir JOHN PATTESON, Knt.
- Sir JOHN WILLIAMS, Knt.
- Sir JOHN TAYLOR COLERIDGE, Knt.

ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Sir JOHN CAMPBELL, Knt.

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TABLE

OF

THE NAMES OF CASES

REPORTED IN THIS VOLUME.

A		Page
	Page	
ACLAND v. Lutley	879	Borrow, Lidster v. 654
Aldrich, Weeding v.	861	Brooks v. Stuart 854
Allason v. Stark	255	Brown, Boorman v. 487
Alnwick, Chamberlain, &c. of,		—— and Croydon Canal
Regina v.	444	Company, In re 532
Alston v. Mills	248	Brunskill v. Robertson 840
Amor v. Fearon	548	Burdett, Bart., Doe dem. Spils-
Astley, Bart. v. Joy	702	bury v. 936
Attorneys, In re Examiners	728	Burroughs v. Hodgson 499
		Bush, Regina v. 820
B		C
Baber v. Harris	532	Caddy, Bartrum v. 275
Bartrum v. Caddy	275	Cambridgeshire, Justices of,
Bath, Recorder of, Regina v.	714	Regina v. (7 A. & E. 480.) 338
—— v.	871	Canadian Prisoners' (Leonard
Batson v. Spearman	298	Watson's) Case 731
Benjamin, Doe dem. Phillip v.	644	Codd, Regina v. 682
Birchmore, Doe dem. Willis v.	662	Colby, Graves v. 356
Bishopton, Inhabitants of, Re-		Collinge, Heywood v. 268
gina v.	824	—— v. 633
Blackfriars Bridge Company,		Colvin, M'Carthy v. 607
Regina v.	828	Croydon Canal Company,
Boorman v. Brown	487	Brown and, In re 523

TABLE OF CASES REPORTED.

		Page
D		
	Page	
Dangerfield v. Thomas	292	
Dixon, Sykes v.	693	
Dodson, Regina v.	704	
Doe dem. Phillip v. Benjamin	644	
—— Willis v. Birchmore	662	
—— Spilsbury v. Bur-		
dett	936	
—— Duncan v. Edwards	554	
—— Evans v. Evans	719	
—— Chadborn v. Green	658	
—— Stephens v. Lord		
(7 A. & E. 614.)	531	
—— Richardson v. Tho-		
mas	556	
—— Dolley v. Ward	582	
E		
Edwards, Doe dem. Duncan		
v.	554	
Elliot, Evans v.	842	
Evans, Doe dem. Evans v.	719	
—— v. Elliot	342	
Examiners of Attorneys, In re	728	
Eye, Mayor, &c. of, Regina v.	670	
F		
Farrar v. Hutchinson	641	
Fearon, Amor v.	548	
Ferguson v. Mahon	245	
Fletcher v. Marillier	457	
G		
Gloucestershire, Justices of,		
Regina v. (7 A. & E. 480.)	338	
Godefroy, Wilkinson v.	536	
Gompertz v. Levy	282	
Graves v. Colby	356	
Green, Doe dem. Chadborn		
v.	658	
Greenwood and Titterington,		
In re	699	
H		
Hale, Regina v.	339	
Hansard, Stockdale v.	1	
Harris, Baber v.	532	
Haynes, Wheeler v. note (a)	286	
Hemming v. Trenery	926	
Heywood, Collinge v.	633	
—— v. ———	268	
Heyworth, Hutchinson v.	375	
Hodgson, Burroughs v.	499	
Hooker, Regina v.	680	
Hungerford Market Com-		
pany, Palmer and, In re	463	
Hutchinson, Farrar v.	641	
—— v. Heyworth	375	
I		
Ibbs v. Richardson	849	
In re Brown and the Croy-		
don Canal Company	532	
—— Examiners of Attor-		
neys	728	
—— Greenwood and Tit-		
terington	699	
—— Palmer and the Hun-		
gerford Market Company	463	
J		
Johnson v. Jones	809	
Jones, Johnson v.	809	
Joy, Astley, Bart., v.	702	
K		
King, Pitcher v.	288	

TABLE OF CASES REPORTED.

vii

L		Page	Page	
Lapierre v. M'Intosh	857		Palmer v. Temple	508
Lee, Storr v.	868		Pearson v. Rogers	303
Levy, Gompertz v.	282		Peck, Regina v.	686
Lidster v. Borrow	654		Pitcher v. King	288
Liverpool, Mayor &c. of, Regina v.	435		Poor Law Commissioners, In re Cambridge Union, Regina, v.	911
Lord, Doe dem. Stephens v. (7 A. & E. 614.)	531		— Strand Union, Regina v.	901
Lutley, Ackland v.	879			
M			R	
M'Carthy v. Colvin	607		Read, Regina v.	619
M'Gregor, Reeves v.	576		Reeves v. M'Gregor	576
M'Intosh, Lapierre v.	857		Regina v. Alnwick Chamberlain, &c. of	444
Mahon, Ferguson v.	245		— v. Bath, Recorder of	714. 871
Marillier, Fletcher v.	457		— v. Bishopton, Inhabitants of	824
Memorandum note 433.	434		— v. Blackfriars Bridge Company	828
Middlesex, Justices of, Regina v.	540		— v. Bush	820
Mills, Alston v.	248		— v. Cambridgeshire, Justices of (7 A. & E. 480.)	338
N			— v. Codd	682
Narberth North, Inhabitants of, Regina v.	815		— v. Dodson	704
Nesbit v. Rishton	426		— v. Eye, Mayor of	670
Northwich Savings' Bank, Trustees of, Regina v.	729		— v. Gloucestershire, Justices of (7 A. & E. 480.)	338
O			— v. Hale	339
Outwell, Inhabitants of, Regina v.	836		— v. Hooker	680
P			— v. Liverpool, Mayor &c., of	435
Pack v. Tarpley	468		— v. Middlesex, Justices of	540
Palmer and the Hungerford Market Company, In re	463		— v. Narberth North, Inhabitants of	815
			— v. Northwich Savings' Bank, Trustees of	729
			— v. Outwell, Inhabitants of	836
			— v. Peck	686
			— v. Poor Law Commissioners,	

	Page		Page
missioners, In re Cambridge Union	911	Spencer, Regina v.	485
Regina v. Poor Law Commissioners, In re Strand Union	901	Stark, Allason v.	255
— v. Read	619	Stockdale v. Hansard	1
— v. St. Mary Kalendar	626	Stogumber, Regina v.	622
— v. Shropshire, Justices of (7 A. & E. 480.)	338	Storr v. Lee	868
— v. Somerby	310	Stuart, Brooks v.	854
— v. Spencer	485	Swansea Harbour, Trustees of (8 A. & E. 439.)	713
— v. Stogumber	622	Swanwick v. Sothern	895
— v. Swansea Harbour, Trustees of (8 A. & E. 439.)	713	Sykes v. Dixon	693
— v. Watson, Leonard, (Canadian Prisoners' Case)	731		
Richardson, Ibbs v.	849	T	
Rishton, Nesbit v.	426	Tarpley, Pack v.	468
Robertson, Brunskill v.	840	Temple, Palmer v.	508
Rogers, Pearson v.	303	Thomas, Dangerfield v.	292
Rules of Court	986	— Doe dem. Richardson v.	556
		Thornton, Shipton v.	314
S		Titterington, Greenwood and, In re	699
St. Mary Kalendar, Regina v.	626	Trenery, Hemming v.	926
Shipton v. Thornton	314	Tyson v. Smith	406
Shropshire, Justices of, Regina v. (7 A. & E. 480.)	338		
Smith, Tyson v.	406	W	
— Wollen v.	505	Ward, Doe dem. Dolley v.	582
Somerby, Regina v.	310	Watson, Leonard, Case of (Canadian Prisoners' Case)	731
Sothern, Swanwick v.	895	Weeding v. Aldrich	861
Spearman, Batson v.	298	Wheeler v. Haynes note (a)	286
		Wilkinson v. Godefroy	536
		Wollen v. Smith	505

TABLE OF CASES CITED.

A

			Page
Ansot v. Weekley	-	- 1 <i>Lev.</i> 176	- 411
Aberdeen v. Newland	-	- 4 <i>Sim.</i> 281.	- 477
Acebal v. Levy	-	- 10 <i>Bing.</i> 384.	- 516
Ackers v. Phipps	-	- 3 <i>Clark & Finelly</i> , 665.	- 600
Action and Pitcher's Case	-	- 4 <i>Leon.</i> 51	- 566
Adam v. Inhabitants of Bristol	-	- 2 <i>A. & E.</i> 395.	- 566
Addy v. Woolley	-	- 8 <i>Taunt.</i> 699. <i>S. C.</i> 3 <i>B. Moore</i> , 21.	362
Agar v. Lisle	-	- <i>Brownl.</i> 5. <i>S. C. Hut.</i> 10. <i>Hob.</i> 187.	867
Alchorne v. Gomme	-	- 2 <i>Bing.</i> 54.	348. 811
Alderman v. Neate	-	- 4 <i>M & W.</i> 704.	- 267
Allen v. Bradshaw	-	- 1 <i>Curt.</i> 110.	- 970
— v. Morrison	-	- 8 <i>B. & C.</i> 565.	- 320
Alner v. George	-	- 1 <i>Camp.</i> 392.	- 642
Angel v. Smith	-	- 9 <i>Ves.</i> 335.	- 67
Annesley, Ex parte	-	- 2 <i>You. & Coll.</i> 350.	- 267
Anonymous	-	- 1 <i>Anstr.</i> 205.	- 67
—	-	- <i>Comberb.</i> 16.	- 802
—	-	- 1 <i>Coup.</i> 128.	- 535
—	-	- <i>Lane.</i> 55.	- 67
—	-	- 1 <i>Mod.</i> 102.	- 746
—	-	- <i>Moore</i> , 57. 1 <i>Hats. Pr.</i> 58.	- 117
—	-	- { <i>Paley on Convictions</i> , p. 59. note	
—	-	- { (1.)	- 711
Arbuckle v. Cowtan	-	- 3 <i>B. & P.</i> 521.	- 476
Arlett v. Ellis	-	- 7 <i>B. & C.</i> 346.	- 413
Arundel's (Earl) Case	-	- 15 <i>Rep.</i> 63.	- 45
Ashby v. White	-	- { 14 <i>How. S. Tr.</i> 695. <i>S. C.</i> 2 <i>Ld.</i>	
—	-	- { <i>Raym.</i> 938.	- 11
Astley v. Younge	-	- 2 <i>Burr.</i> 807.	- 98
Atkin v. Acton	-	- 4 <i>Car. & P.</i> 208.	- 552
Attorney-General v. Aspinall	-	- 2 <i>Myl. & C.</i> 613.	- 438
— v. Bowman	-	- 2 <i>B. & P.</i> 532. note (a)	- 739
— v. Coventry Mayor	-	- 1 <i>P. Wms.</i> 307.	- 480
— v. Lewin	-	- 8 <i>Sim.</i> 366.	- 267
— v. Poole Corporation	-	- 1 <i>Keen</i> , 190.	- 872
— v. Wilson	-	- 2 <i>Myl. & C.</i> 634. note (a)	- 438
Atwyll's Case	-	- 1 <i>Hats. Pr.</i> 48.	- 76
Aubry v. Fisher	-	- 10 <i>East</i> , 446.	- 817
Audley's (Dame) Case	-	- <i>Moore</i> , 25.	- 502
Augarde v. Thompson	-	- 2 <i>M. & W.</i> 617.	- 506
Aylesbury Men's Case	-	- 2 <i>Ld. Ray.</i> 1105.	- 137

B

Bach v. Owen	-	- 5 <i>T. R.</i> 409.	- 302
Backhouse v. Harrison	-	- 5 <i>B. & Ad.</i> 1098.	- 277
Badger v. Ford	-	- 3 <i>B. & Ald.</i> 153.	- 413

	Page
Bagshaw v. Spencer -	- 1 <i>Ves. Sen.</i> 142. - 892
Bailey v. Culverwell -	- 8 <i>B. & C.</i> 448. - 392
Baker v. Brereman -	- <i>Cro. Car.</i> 418. - 411
— v. Jardine -	- 13 <i>East</i> , 235. note (b) - 320
— v. Morrey -	- 1 <i>Moore & Payne</i> , 138. - 507
Baldwin v. Karver -	- 1 <i>Cowp.</i> 309. - 588
Ballard v. Agard -	- 6 <i>Vin. Abr.</i> 240. - 339
Ballinger v. Ferris -	- { 1 <i>M. & W.</i> 628. <i>S. C. Tyr. & Gr.</i> 920. - 656
Banbury's (Lord) Case -	- 12 <i>How. St. Tr.</i> 1167. - 82
Banks v. Colwell -	- 3 <i>T. R.</i> 81. - 278
Barber v. Dennis -	- 1 <i>Salk.</i> 68. - 696
Barham's Case -	- 4 <i>Co.</i> 20 a. - 285
Barnadiston v. Soame -	- { 6 <i>How. St. Tri.</i> 1063. <i>S. C. Lev.</i> 114. <i>Freeman, K.B. & C. P.</i> 380. 387. 390. 430. - 10
Barnes's Case -	- 2 <i>Roll. Rep.</i> 157. - 65. 759
Barnett v. Glossop -	- 1 <i>New Ca.</i> 633. - 929
Baron v. Husband -	- 5 <i>B. & Ad.</i> 611. - 390
Barrough v. White -	- 4 <i>B. & C.</i> 325. - 278
Barry v. Nugent -	- 5 <i>T. R.</i> 165. - 647
— v. Stanton -	- <i>Cro. Eliz.</i> 330. - 724
Barton v. Boddington -	- 1 <i>Car. & P.</i> 207. - 897
Bateson v. Green -	- 5 <i>T. R.</i> 412. - 419
Batsford v. Kebble -	- 3 <i>Ves.</i> 363. - 589
Battley v. Faulkner -	- 3 <i>B. & Ald.</i> 288. - 635
Bauerman v. Radenius -	- 7 <i>T. R.</i> 663. - 714
Baxter dem. Abrahall v. Browne -	- 2 <i>W. Bl.</i> 973. - 649
Beauchamps, Lord, v. Croft -	- <i>Dyer</i> , 285 a. - 98
Beaumont v. Barrett -	- 1 <i>Moore. Rep: Priv. Counc.</i> 59.76. - 99
Beck v. Robley -	- 1 <i>H. Bl.</i> 89. note (a) - 277
Bedford, Mayor of, v. Fox -	- 1 <i>Lutw.</i> 568. - 368
Beechey v. Sides -	- 9 <i>B. & C.</i> 806. - 656
Beeching, Ex parte -	- 4 <i>B. & C.</i> 136. - 739
Beeston v. Collyer -	- 4 <i>Bing.</i> 309. - 696
Bell's Case -	- 59 <i>Lords' Journ.</i> 199. 206. - 68
Bennett v. Apperley -	- 6 <i>B. & C.</i> 630. - 473
— v. Filkins -	- 1 <i>Wms. Saund.</i> 23. note (5.) - 297
Bennington v. Taylor -	- 2 <i>Lutw.</i> 1517. - 417
Benson v. Bennett -	- 1 <i>Camp.</i> 393. note. - 643
Benyon v. Evelyn -	- <i>Sir O. Bridgman's Judgments</i> , 524. - 10
Bernardiston v. Some -	- 2 <i>Lev.</i> 114. - 69
Berry v. Taunton -	- <i>Cro. Eliz.</i> 331. - 724
Berwick v. Swanston -	- <i>Bunb.</i> 192. - 480
Best v. Argles -	- { 2 <i>Cro. & M.</i> 394. <i>S. C. 4 Tyr.</i> 256. - 393
Bigg's Case -	- 32 <i>Lords' Journ.</i> 185. - 68
Bill v. Holt -	- 1 <i>Keb.</i> 576. - 566
Birch v. Wright -	- 1 <i>T. R.</i> 378. - 659. 696
Bird v. Higginson -	- 2 <i>A. & E.</i> 696. - 862
Birkmyr v. Darnell -	- 1 <i>Salk.</i> 27. - 697
Birks v. Trippet -	- 1 <i>Saund.</i> 32. - 302
Bis v. Holt -	- 1 <i>Sid.</i> 158. - 566
Bisco v. Holte -	- 1 <i>Lev.</i> 112. - 566
Blackburn v. Blackburn -	- 4 <i>Bing.</i> 395. - 98
Blake's Case -	- 6 <i>Rep.</i> 43 b. - 534
Bland v. Williams -	- 3 <i>Mylne & K.</i> 411. - 598

TABLE OF CASES CITED.

xi

	Page
Blewitt v. Tregonning	- 3 <i>A. & E.</i> 554. - 414
Bliss v. Woods	- 3 <i>Hagg. Eccl. Rep.</i> 486. - 478
Blundell v. Catterall	- 5 <i>B. & Ald.</i> 268. - 412
Bodwic v. Fennell	- 1 <i>Wils.</i> 237. - 362
Bones v. Booth	- 2 <i>W. Bl.</i> 1226. - 476
Booth v. Booth	- 4 <i>Ves.</i> 399. - 590
— v. Howard	- 5 <i>Dowl. P. C.</i> 438. - 247
Boothby v. Morton	- 3 <i>Brod. & B.</i> 239. - 636
Boraston's Case	- 3 <i>Rep.</i> 19 a. - 594
Bosworth v. Herne	- { <i>Ca. K. B. temp. Hardw.</i> 405. <i>S. C.</i> 2 <i>Stra.</i> 1085. - 368
Bouchier v. Taylor	- 4 <i>Br. Parl. Ca.</i> 708. - 64
Bourn's Case	- <i>Cro. Jac.</i> 543. - 742
Bovill v. Wood	- 2 <i>M. & S.</i> 23. - 869
Bowdell v. Parsons	- 10 <i>East</i> , 359. - 302
Bowen v. Ashley	- 1 <i>New Rep.</i> 274. - 320
Bowman v. Nichol	- 5 <i>T. R.</i> 537. - 930
Boyd v. Croydon Railway Company	- 4 <i>New Ca.</i> 669. - 875
Boydell v. Drummond	- 11 <i>East</i> , 142. - 695
Brandreth's Case	- 32 <i>How. St. Tr.</i> 766. - 94
Bradbury v. Anderton	- { 1 <i>Cro. M. & R.</i> 486. <i>S. C.</i> 5 <i>Tyr.</i> 152. - 585
Brass Crosby's Case	- { 2 <i>W. B.</i> 754. <i>S. C.</i> 3 <i>Wils.</i> 188. 50. 739
Briggs v. Evelyn	- 2 <i>H. Bl.</i> 114. - 657
Bristol Poor, Governors of, v. Wait	- 5 <i>A. & E.</i> 1. - 438, 832
Brittain v. Kinnaird	- 1 <i>Br. & B.</i> 452. - 64
Broggref v. Hawke	- 3 <i>New Ca.</i> 880. - 702
Bromfield v. Crowder	- 1 <i>New Rep.</i> 315. - 595
Brook v. Biggs	- 2 <i>New Ca.</i> 572. - 264, 812
Browley's Case	- 2 <i>Bur.</i> 856. - 742
Brown v. Croome	- 2 <i>Stark. N. P. C.</i> 297. - 284
— v. Davis	- 3 <i>T. R.</i> 81. - 278
— v. Howard	- 2 <i>Brod. & B.</i> 75. - 635
Buck v. Lee	- 1 <i>A. & E.</i> 804. - 296
Buckley v. Wood	- 4 <i>Rep.</i> 14 b. - 99
Bull v. Pritchard	- 1 <i>Russ.</i> 213. - 591
— v. Sibbs	- 8 <i>T. R.</i> 327. - 851
Buller v. Burt	- 4 <i>A. & E.</i> pp. 15, 16, 17. - 944
— v. Harrison	- 2 <i>Cowp.</i> 565. - 610
Bullock v. Lloyd	- 2 <i>Car. & P.</i> 119. - 635
Bulstrode v. Gilbert	- 2 <i>Stra.</i> 1027. - 554
Burbridge v. Manners	- 3 <i>Camp.</i> 194. - 277
Burdett v. Abbott	- 14 <i>East</i> , 11. - 9
— v. Colman	- 14 <i>East</i> , 163. 5 <i>Dow.</i> 170. - 74
Burn v. Carvalho	- 1 <i>A. & E.</i> 883. - 295, 387
Burnett v. Lynch	- { 5 <i>B. & C.</i> 589. <i>S. C.</i> 8 <i>D. & R.</i> 368. - 553
Burrell v. Jones	- 3 <i>B. & Ald.</i> 47. - 324
Burt v. Moore	- 5 <i>T. R.</i> 329. - 452
Bush v. Green	- 4 <i>New Ca.</i> 41. - 655
Bushell's Case	- { <i>Vaugh.</i> 155. <i>S. C. Freem. K. B.</i> & <i>C. P.</i> 1. <i>Sir T. Jones</i> , 13. 27, 771
Busk v. Davis	- { 5 <i>Taunt.</i> 622. note (a.) <i>S. C.</i> 2 <i>M.</i> & <i>S.</i> 397. - 899
Butcher v. Butcher	- 7 <i>B. & C.</i> 399. - 884
Butts v. Swann	- 3 <i>Brod. & B.</i> 78. - 382
Byrd v. Wilford	- <i>Cro. Eliz.</i> 464. - 374

C

		Page
Callo v. Browncker	- 4 <i>Car. & P.</i> 518.	- 552
Callow v. Lawrence	- 3 <i>M. & S.</i> 95.	- 277
Camden, Lord, v. Home	- 4 <i>T. R.</i> 382.	- 63
Cameron v. Lightfoot	- 2 <i>W. Bl.</i> 1190.	- 272
Campbell v. Prescott	- 15 <i>Ves.</i> 500.	- 725
Canadian Prisoners' Case	- 5 <i>M. & W.</i> 44. note (i)	- 803
Cantellow v. Freeman	- { 1 <i>C. & M.</i> 536. <i>S. C.</i> 3 <i>Tyr.</i> 579.	- 271
Carnaby v. Welby	- 8 <i>A. & E.</i> 872.	- 460
Carpenter v. Marnell	- 3 <i>B. & P.</i> 40.	- 295
Carrington v. Roots	- 2 <i>M. & W.</i> 248.	- 697
Carter v. Barnadiston	- 1 <i>P. Wms.</i> 505, 509.	- 887
—— v. Crawley	- <i>T. Ray.</i> 496.	- 66
Carvalho v. Burn	- 4 <i>B. & Ad.</i> 593.	295, 387
Cathcart v. Hardy	- 2 <i>M. & S.</i> 534.	- 479
Catlin v. Milner	- 2 <i>Lutw.</i> 1421.	- 866
Cawthorne v. Campbell	- 1 <i>Aust.</i> 205. note.	- 67
Cecil v. Harris	- <i>Cro. Eliz.</i> 140.	- 815
Chancey's (Sir William) Case	- 12 <i>Rep.</i> 82.	- 788
Chapman v. Bluck	- 4 <i>New Ca.</i> 187.	- 647
Charlton's Case	- 2 <i>Mylne & Cr.</i> 316.	- 84
Clark v. Upton	- 3 <i>Man. & R.</i> 89.	- 516
Clarke, Ex parte	- 1 <i>Russ. & Myl.</i> 563	- 67
Clark's Case	- 5 <i>Rep.</i> 64 a.	- 783
Clarkson v. Woodhouse	- 7 <i>T. R.</i> 412.	- 419
Cleaver v. Sarraude	- 1 <i>Camp.</i> 268.	- 98
Clerke's Case	- 1 <i>Hats. Pr.</i> 54.	- 77
Cliffe v. Gibbons	- 2 <i>Ld. Ray.</i> 1324.	- 723
Cochrane's (Lord) Case	- 1 <i>Hats. Pr.</i> 278.	- 237
Cocks v. Nash	- 9 <i>Bing.</i> 341.	- 855
Cocksedge v. Fanshaw	- 1 <i>Doug.</i> 132.	- 416
Coke's Servant's Case	- 1 <i>Hats. Pr.</i> 112.	- 62
Colchester Corporation v. Simpson	- 1 <i>Wils.</i> 237.	- 362
Cole v. Hindson	- 6 <i>T. R.</i> 234.	- 843
Colebrook v. Layton	- 4 <i>B. & Ad.</i> 578.	- 477
Cook v. Jennings	- 7 <i>T. R.</i> 381.	- 322
—— v. Leonard	- 6 <i>B. & C.</i> 351.	- 656
Cooke v. Sholl	- 5 <i>T. R.</i> 255.	- 64
Cobk's Case	- { 1 <i>Hats. Pr.</i> 96. <i>O. Bridg. on Judg-</i> ments, 351.	- 78
Copeland's Case	- <i>Kelyng. Rep. Pl. Cr.</i> 45.	- 768
Cortis v. Kent Water Works' Company	- 7 <i>B. & C.</i> 314.	- 875
Cospey v. Turner	- <i>Cro. Eliz.</i> 800.	- 980
Cottle v. Warrington	- 5 <i>B. & Ad.</i> 447.	- 473
Cotton v. Browne	- 3 <i>A. & E.</i> 512.	- 16
Cowan, Ex parte	- 3 <i>B. & Ald.</i> 150.	- 103
Cox v. Prentice	- 3 <i>M. & S.</i> 344.	- 611
Craft v. Boite	- 1 <i>Saund.</i> 242. note (4.)	- 285
Craven v. Sanderson	- 4 <i>A. & E.</i> 666.	297, 307
Crawford v. Satchwell	- 2 <i>Str.</i> 1218.	- 844
Crook v. Jadis	- 5 <i>B. & Ad.</i> 909.	- 277
Crosby v. Wadsworth	- 6 <i>East.</i> 602.	- 452
Crowfoot v. Gurney	- 9 <i>Bing.</i> 372.	- 389
Crowley's Case	- 2 <i>Swanst.</i> 1.	- 740
Crozer v. Pilling	- 4 <i>B. & C.</i> 26.	- 270

TABLE OF CASES CITED.

xiii

		Page
Crusoe dem. Blencowe v. Bugby	- 3 <i>Wils.</i> 234.	- 724
Cuckson v. Winter	- 2 <i>Man. & Ry.</i> 313	- 867
Curry v. Walter	- 1 <i>Bos. & P.</i> 525.	- 175
Curteis v. Kenrick	- 3 <i>M. & W.</i> 461.	- 943
Cuthbert v. Gostling	- 3 <i>Camp.</i> 515.	- 492
Cutler v. Dixon	- 4 <i>Rep.</i> 14 b.	- 98
Cuxon v. Chadley	- 3 <i>B. & C.</i> 591.	- 385

D

Da Costa v. Villa Real	- 2 <i>Str.</i> 961.	- 64
Dame Audley's Case	- <i>Moore</i> , 25.	- 502
Darnell's Case	- 3 <i>How. St. Tr.</i> 1.	- 35
Davies, Ex parte	- 4 <i>B. & Ad.</i> 327.	- 466
Davis v. Williams	- 13 <i>East</i> , 232.	- 320
Day v. Bonnin	- 3 <i>New Ca.</i> 219.	- 527
— v. Robinson	- 1 <i>A. & E.</i> 554.	- 285
Deacon, Ex parte	- 5 <i>B. & Ald.</i> 759.	- 870
Dean v. James	- 1 <i>A. & E.</i> 809.	- 296
De Bode, Baron, In re	- 6 <i>Dowl. P. C.</i> 782.	- 767
Delany v. Jones	- 4 <i>Exp. N. P. C.</i> 191.	- 98
Denn dem. Jacklin v. Cartwright	- 4 <i>East</i> , 29.	- 660. 696
De Symonds v. De la Cour	- 2 <i>New Rep.</i> 374.	- 493
De Vine's Case	- <i>O. Bridgm.</i> 288.	- 788
Dicas v. Jay	- 6 <i>Bing.</i> 519.	- 527
Digby v. Thompson	- 4 <i>B. & Ad.</i> 821.	- 288
Dixon v. Hamond	- 2 <i>B. & Ald.</i> 310.	- 897
Dod v. Monger	- <i>Holt</i> , 416. <i>S. C. 6 Mod.</i> 215.	- 661
Doe v. Langlands	- 14 <i>East</i> , 370.	- 726
— dem. Jackson v. Ashburner	- 5 <i>T. R.</i> 165.	- 648
— Phillip v. Benjamin	- 9 <i>A. & El.</i> 650.	- 724
— Goodbehere v. Bevan	- 3 <i>M. & S.</i> 353.	- 724
— Morgan v. Bluck	- 3 <i>Camp.</i> 447.	- 475
— Spearing v. Buckner	- 6 <i>T. R.</i> 610.	- 721
— Spilsbury v. Burdett	- 4 <i>A. & E.</i> 1.	- 937
— Rogers v. Cadwallader	- 2 <i>B. & Ad.</i> 473.	- 346
— Mitchinson v. Carter	- 8 <i>T. R.</i> 57. 300.	- 478
— Coore v. Clare	- 2 <i>T. R.</i> 793.	- 724
— Hobbs v. Cockell	- 4 <i>A. & E.</i> 478.	- 263
— Copley v. Day	- 13 <i>East</i> , 241.	- 320
— Pitcher v. Donovan	- 1 <i>Taunt.</i> 555. 2 <i>Camp.</i> 78.	- 659
— Hick v. Dring	- 2 <i>M. & S.</i> 448.	- 726
— Shelley v. Edlin	- 4 <i>A. & E.</i> 582.	- 889
— Cadogan v. Ewart	- 7 <i>A. & E.</i> 656.	- 607. 892
— Booth v. Field	- 2 <i>B. & Ad.</i> 564.	- 889
— Ellerbrock v. Flynn	- { 1 <i>Cro. M. & R.</i> 137. <i>S. C. 4 Tyrwh.</i> 619.	- 887
— Chadborn v. Green	- 9 <i>A. & El.</i> 658.	- 696
— Walker v. Groves	- 15 <i>East</i> , 244.	- 647
— Whitaker v. Hales	- 7 <i>Bing.</i> 322.	- 346
— Compere v. Hicks	- 7 <i>T. R.</i> 433.	- 887
— Jackson v. Hiley	- 10 <i>B. & C.</i> 885.	- 261
— Madkins v. Horner	- 8 <i>A. & E.</i> 235.	- 531
— Hurrell v. Hurrell	- 5 <i>B. & Ald.</i> 18.	- 721
— Andrew v. Lainchbury	- 11 <i>East</i> , 290.	- 721
— Wheedon v. Lea	- 3 <i>T. R.</i> 41.	- 887

			Page
Doe dem. Roby v. Maisey	-	8 <i>B. & C.</i> 767.	- 347
Brune v. Martyn	-	8 <i>B. & C.</i> 497.	- 889
Rogers v. Mears	-	<i>Cowp.</i> 129.	- 478
Buller v. Mills	-	2 <i>A. & E.</i> 17.	- 669
Hunt v. Moore	-	14 <i>East</i> , 601.	- 593
Player v. Nicholls	-	1 <i>B. & C.</i> 336.	- 888
Roake v. Nowell	-	1 <i>M. & S.</i> 327.	- 593
Williams v. Pasquali	-	<i>Peake. N. P. C.</i> 259. 3d ed.	- 885
Mansfield v. Peach	-	2 <i>M. & S.</i> 576.	- 942
Hotchkiss v. Pearce	-	6 <i>Taunt.</i> 402.	- 943
Pearson v. Ries	-	8 <i>Bing.</i> 178.	647. 859
Jeff v. Robinson	-	8 <i>B. & C.</i> 296.	- 723
Morris v. Rosser	-	3 <i>East</i> , 11.	- 264
Bunny v. Rout	-	7 <i>Taunt.</i> 79. <i>S. C.</i> 2 <i>Marsh.</i> 597.	721
White v. Simpson	-	5 <i>East</i> , 162.	- 887
Bland v. Smith	-	<i>Holt. N. P. C.</i> 589.	- 475
Knight v. Smythe	-	4 <i>M. & S.</i> 347.	- 669
Higgs v. Terry	-	4 <i>A. & E.</i> 274.	263. 362
Burgess v. Thompson	-	5 <i>A. & E.</i> 532.	- 666
Thompson v. —	-	6 <i>A. & E.</i> 721.	- 666
Pratt v. Timins	-	1 <i>B. & Ald.</i> 530.	- 892
Teynham v. Tyler	-	6 <i>Bing.</i> 390.	- 664
Keen v. Walbank	-	2 <i>B. & Ald.</i> 554.	- 889
Mann v. Walters	-	10 <i>B. & C.</i> 626.	- 352
Jones v. Wilde	-	5 <i>Taunt.</i> 183.	- 663
Tomkyns v. Willan	-	2 <i>B. & Ald.</i> 84.	- 888
Jones v. Williams	-	5 <i>A. & E.</i> 291.	- 347
Rees v. —	-	2 <i>M. & W.</i> 749.	- 889
Beezley v. Woodhouse	-	4 <i>T. R.</i> 89.	- 890
Tennyson v. Yarborough, Lord	-	1 <i>Bing.</i> 24.	- 568
Donne v. Walsh	-	1 <i>Hats. Prec.</i> 41.	- 9
Downes v. Richardson	-	5 <i>B. & Ald.</i> 674.	- 930
Drewe v. Coulton	-	1 <i>East</i> , 563. note (b)	- 83
Duckworth v. Harrison	-	4 <i>M. & W.</i> 432.	- 527
Duffield v. Duffield	-	1 <i>Dow. & Clark</i> , 311.	- 594
Duigenan's Case	-	{ <i>Alcock's Registry Cases Reservo-</i> <i>ed.</i> 114.	- 673
Duncan v. Cafe	-	2 <i>M. & W.</i> 244.	- 516
Dunk v. Hunter	-	5 <i>B. & Ald.</i> 322.	- 646
Dyer v. Bowley	-	2 <i>Bing.</i> 94.	- 812
Dyson v. Collick	-	5 <i>B. & Ald.</i> 600.	- 452

E

Eaton v. Jaques	-	<i>Doug.</i> 455.	- 811
Edwards v. Barnes	-	2 <i>New Ca.</i> 252	- 727
Edwards v. Hammond	-	3 <i>Lev.</i> 132.	- 595
Ellington v. Cheney	-	1 <i>Wils.</i> 235.	- 364
Elliot's (Sir John) Case	-	3 <i>How. St. Tr.</i> 293.	- 56
Emly v. Collins	-	6 <i>M. & S.</i> 144.	- 381
Ensden and Denny's Case	-	<i>Palm.</i> 104.	- 568
Entick v. Carrington	-	19 <i>How. St. Tr.</i> 1047.	- 51
Evans v. Elliot	-	5 <i>A. & E.</i> 142.	- 343
— v. —	-	9 <i>A. & E.</i> 342.	- 811
— v. Rowe	-	<i>M'Cl. & Y.</i> 577.	- 818
Examiners of Attorneys, In re	-	8 <i>A. & E.</i> 745.	- 728

TABLE OF CASES CITED.

xv

F

		Page
Fairlie v. Denton	- 8 B. & C. 395.	- 385
Fairman v. Ives	- 5 B. & Ald. 642.	- 16
Farlow, Ex parte	- 2 B. & Ad. 341.	- 466
Farmer v. Francis	- { 2 Bing. 151. S. C. 9 B. Moore, 310.	- 593
Farnworth v. Bishop of Chester	- 4 B. & C. 555.	- 478
Feltmakers, Master Wardens, &c. of, v. Davis	- 1 Bos. & P. 98.	- 365
Ferrer's Case	- 1 Hats. 56.	- 47
Fillicul v. Armstrong	- 7 A. & E. 557.	- 552
Finch v. Cocken	- 2 Cro. M. & R. 196.	- 843
Firbank v. Bell	- 1 B. & Ald. 36.	- 382
Fisher v. Miller	- 1 Bing. 150.	- 384
Fitch v. Rawling	- 2 H. Bl. 593.	- 410
Fitzharris's Case	- 8 How. St. Tr. 223.	- 132
Fitzhugh v. Dennington	- 2 Ld. Raym. 1094.	- 886
Fletcher v. Greenwell	- { 1 Cro. M. & R. 754. S. C. 5 Tyr. 316.	- 717
Flight v. Salter	- 1 B. & Ad. 673.	- 474
Flint v. Pike	- 4 B. & C. 473.	- 181
Floyde's Case	- 2 How. St. Tr. 1153.	- 111
Fludier v. Lombe	- Ca. K. B. Temp. Hardw. 307.	- 673
Folliott v. Ogden	- 1 H. Bl. 123. 125.	- 768
Ford v. Jones	- 3 B. & Ad. 248.	- 700
Foster v. Allanson	- 2 T. R. 479.	- 534
— v. Jackson	- Hub. 61.	- 783
— v. Pearson	- { 1 Cro. M. & R. 849. S. C. 5 Tyr. 255.	- 277
Fowell v. Forrest	- 2 Saund. 48.	- 855
Fox v. Corbett	- 14 East, 62.	- 85
—'s (Mr. Justice) Case	- 45 Lords' Journ. 662.	- 28
— v. Swann	- Style, 482.	- 724
France v. Parry	- 1 A. & E. 615.	- 429
Freakley v. Fox	- 9 B. & C. 130.	- 277
Freeman v. Crafts	- 4 M. & W. 4.	248. 254
Fuller v. Fotch	- Carth. 346. S. C. Holt, 287.	- 64
Fulwood's Case	- 4 Rep. 64 b.	- 374

G

Galloway v. Susach	- 1 Salk. 384.	- 815
Galliers v. Moss	- 9 B. & C. 267.	- 782
Gardener's Case	- Cro. Eliz. 821.	- 788
Gardner v. Baillie	- 1 B. & P. 32.	- 430
— v. Jessop	- 2 Wils. 42.	- 501
Gare v. Gapper	- 3 East, 472.	- 65
Gargrave v. Smith	- 1 Salk. 221. Bull. N. P. 81.	- 866
Garrard v. Lord Lauderdale	- 3 Sim. 1.	- 479
Gateward's Case	- 6 Rep. 59 b.	- 414
Geyer v. Aguilar	- 7 T. R. 681	- 64
Gibson v. Lord Montfort	- 1 Ves. Sen. 485.	- 890
Gill v. Cubitt	- 3 B. & C. 466.	- 276
Gillon, In re	- 3 B. & Ad. 493.	- 531
Goddard v. Vanderheyden	- 3 Wils. 262.	- 638
Godsall v. Boldero	- 9 East, 72.	- 289

	Page
Goldstein v. Foss - - -	4 <i>Bing.</i> 489. - 285
Goldswain's Case - - -	2 <i>W. Bl.</i> 1207. - 790
Gomez Serra v. Berkley - - -	1 <i>Wils.</i> 46. - 277
Gompertz v. Denton - - -	1 <i>Cro. & M.</i> 207. <i>S. C. 3 Tyr.</i> 252. - 517
Goodman v. Goodright dem. Williams - - -	2 <i>Burr.</i> 873. - 892
----- v. Harvey - - -	4 <i>A. & E.</i> 870. - 277
Goodtitle dem. Hayward v. Whitby - - -	1 <i>Burr.</i> 328. - 887
Gosling v. Birnie - - -	7 <i>Bing.</i> 339. - 897
----- ex parte - - -	4 <i>B. & Ad.</i> 596. - 466
Gould v. Gapper - - -	5 <i>East.</i> 345. - 65
Grainger v. Hill - - -	4 <i>New Ca.</i> 212. - 270
Gravenor v. Woodhouse - - -	1 <i>Bing.</i> 38. - 263
Graves v. Key - - -	3 <i>B. & Ad.</i> 313. - 645
Gray v. Gutteridge - - -	1 <i>Man. & R.</i> 614. - 516
----- v. Gwennap - - -	1 <i>B. & Ald.</i> 106. - 525
----- v. Pindar - - -	2 <i>B. & P.</i> 427. - 501
Green v. Harrington - - -	<i>Hutt.</i> 34. - 535
----- v. New River Company - - -	4 <i>T. R.</i> 589. - 491
Greenwood v. Priest - - -	<i>Cro. Jac.</i> 91. - 98
Gregory v. Doidge - - -	3 <i>Bing.</i> 474. - 264
Grimman v. Legge - - -	8 <i>B. & C.</i> 324. - 886
Grimstead v. Marlowe - - -	4 <i>T. R.</i> 717. - 414
Grove v. Bridges - - -	<i>Gilb. Ten.</i> 294. - 340
Gurney v. Longman - - -	13 <i>Ves.</i> 493. - 97
Gyde v. Boucher - - -	5 <i>Dowl. P. C.</i> 127. - 527
Gye v. Felton - - -	4 <i>Taunt.</i> 876. - 698

H

Haille v. Smith - - -	1 <i>Bos. & P.</i> 563. - 897
Hales' (Sir Edward) Case - - -	11 <i>How. St. Tr.</i> 1198. - 38
Hall v. Franklin - - -	3 <i>M. & W.</i> 259. - 855
----- v. Middleton - - -	4 <i>A. & E.</i> 107. - 253
----- v. Smith - - -	1 <i>B. & C.</i> 407. - 521
Hallen v. ----- - - -	7 <i>Dowl. P. C.</i> 394. - 703
Hamerton v. Stead - - -	5 <i>B. & C.</i> 482. - 646
Hammon v. Roll - - -	<i>March New Ca.</i> 202. - 856
Hammond v. Anderson - - -	1 <i>New Rep.</i> 69. - 900
Hamond v. Howell - - -	1 <i>Mod.</i> 184. - 61
Hancock v. Caffyn - - -	8 <i>Bing.</i> 358. - 535
Hannan v. Roll - - -	<i>Butler's Co. Lit.</i> 232 a. note (1) - 855
Hanson v. Meyer - - -	6 <i>East.</i> 614. - 898
Harding v. Crethorn - - -	1 <i>Esp.</i> 57. - 851
Harman v. Anderson - - -	2 <i>Camp.</i> 243. - 897
Harrington v. Wise - - -	<i>Cro. Eliz.</i> 486. - 647
Harris v. James - - -	9 <i>East.</i> 82. - 506
Hart v. Macnamara - - -	4 <i>Price.</i> 154. note - 64
Hartford v. Jones - - -	5 <i>Salk.</i> 566. <i>S. C. 1 Ld. Raym.</i> 393. - 862
Harton v. Harton - - -	7 <i>T. R.</i> 652. - 890
Hastings' (Warren) Case - - -	(<i>Cited.</i>) - 82
Hatter v. Ash - - -	1 <i>Ld. Ray.</i> 84. - 886
Hawes v. Watson - - -	2 <i>B. & C.</i> 540. - 897
Hayelden v. Staff - - -	5 <i>A. & E.</i> 155. - 930
Hayward v. Giffard - - -	4 <i>M. & W.</i> 194. - 710
Hayward v. Haswell - - -	6 <i>A. & E.</i> 265. - 647

TABLE OF CASES CITED.

xvii

	Page
Heath v. Milward - - -	2 <i>New Ca.</i> 98. - 460
Heddy v. Welhouse - - -	<i>Moore</i> , 474. - 415
Hegan v. Johnson - - -	2 <i>Taunt.</i> 148. - 860
Helyar's Case - - -	6 <i>Rep.</i> 24 b. - 306
Hemming v. Trenery - - -	{ 2 <i>Cro. M. & R.</i> 885. <i>S. C.</i> 5 <i>Tyr.</i> 887. - 929
Henfree v. Bromley - - -	6 <i>East</i> , 209. - 929
Hesketh v. Braddock - - -	3 <i>Burr.</i> 1847. - 368
Heudebourck v. Langton - - -	{ 5 <i>Car. & P.</i> 566. <i>S. C.</i> <i>M. & M.</i> 402. note (b) - 715
Hill v. Saunders - - -	4 <i>B. & C.</i> 529. - 812
Hix v. Gardiner - - -	2 <i>Bulstr.</i> 195. - 416
Hobhouse's Case - - -	{ 3 <i>B. & Ald.</i> 420. <i>S. C.</i> 2 <i>Chitt. Rep.</i> 207. - 736
Hodgson v. Anderson - - -	3 <i>B. & C.</i> 842. - 591
----- v. Bell - - -	7 <i>T. R.</i> 97. - 640
Hodson and Drewry, In re - - -	7 <i>Dowl. P. C.</i> 569. - 701
Holiday v. Pitt - - -	2 <i>Stra.</i> 986. - 93
Holl v. Griffin - - -	10 <i>Bing.</i> 246. - 897
Hollings v. Hungerford - - -	1 <i>Wils.</i> 255. - 363
Holloway v. Smith - - -	2 <i>Stra.</i> 1171. - 417
Holroyd v. Breare - - -	2 <i>B. & Ald.</i> 473. - 290
Home v. Bentinck - - -	2 <i>B. & B.</i> 130. - 98
----- v. Earl Camden - - -	1 <i>H. Bl.</i> 476. - 63
Hopcraft v. Keys - - -	9 <i>Bing.</i> 613. - 812
Horford v. Wilson - - -	1 <i>Taunt.</i> 12. - 516
Hougham v. Sandys - - -	2 <i>Sim.</i> 142. - 940
Howell v. Batt - - -	5 <i>B. & Ad.</i> 504. - 350
----- v. Young - - -	5 <i>B. & C.</i> 259. - 635
Hubbard v. Beckford - - -	1 <i>Hagg. Consist. Rep.</i> 307. - 476
Hunt v. Mortimer - - -	10 <i>B. & C.</i> 44. - 386
Hunter v. Prinsep - - -	10 <i>East</i> , 378. - 322
Huntley v. Luscombe - - -	3 <i>B. & P.</i> 532. - 759
Hutchins v. Player - - -	<i>O. Bridgm. Rep.</i> 287. - 787
Hyde v. Cogan - - -	2 <i>Doughl.</i> 699. - 476
Hyde's Case - - -	32 <i>Lords' Journals</i> , 250. - 68

I

Irving v. Veitch - - -	3 <i>M. & W.</i> 90. 105. - 856
Israel v. Douglas - - -	1 <i>H. Bl.</i> 239. - 585
Iveson v. Conington - - -	1 <i>B. & C.</i> 160. - 324

J

Jamieson and Binns, In re - - -	4 <i>A. & E.</i> 945. - 700
JAnson v. Stuart - - -	1 <i>T. R.</i> 748. - 691
Jay v. Topham - - -	14 <i>East</i> , 102. note (a) - 28
Jekyll v. Sir John Moore - - -	2 <i>New Rep.</i> 341. - 97
Jenkes's Case - - -	6 <i>How. St. Tr.</i> 1189. - 780
Jenkinson v. Thomas - - -	4 <i>T. R.</i> 665. - 567
Jevens v. Harridge - - -	1 <i>Wms. Saund.</i> 9. - 296. 859
John v. Jenkins - - -	{ 1 <i>Cro. & M.</i> 227. <i>S. C.</i> 3 <i>Tyr.</i> 170. - 647

	Page
Johnson v. Dodgson - - -	2 <i>M. & W.</i> 655. - 930
—— v. May - - -	3 <i>Lev.</i> 150. - 534
Jones v. Dale - - -	1 <i>Sugd. on Powers</i> , 302. 6th ed. 944
Jones v. Morgan - - -	1 <i>Bro. Ch. Ca.</i> 206. - 890
—— v. Richard - - -	5 <i>A. & E.</i> 413. - 452
—— v. Simpson - - -	2 <i>B. & C.</i> 318. - 382
—— Lady, v. Lord Say and Seal	8 <i>Vin. Abr.</i> 262. - 887
Jongsma v. Jongsma - - -	1 <i>Cox</i> , 362. - 722
Juxon v. Lord Byron - - -	2 <i>Lev.</i> 64. - 65

K

Keane v. Boycott - - -	2 <i>H. Bl.</i> 511. - 696
Keech v. Hall - - -	1 <i>Doug.</i> 21. - 347
Kemble v. Farren - - -	6 <i>Bing.</i> 141. - 517
Kemp v. Derrett - - -	3 <i>Camp.</i> 510. - 659
Kenrick v. Lord William Beauclerk	3 <i>B. & P.</i> 175. - 890
Kenyon v. Wakes - - -	2 <i>M. & W.</i> 764. - 247
Kerrison v. Coatsworth - - -	1 <i>Car. & P.</i> 645. - 494
King v. Shrivess - - -	10 <i>Bing.</i> 238. - 723
Kingston's (Duchess of) Case - - -	20 <i>How. St. Tr.</i> 537. note. - 64
Kiplyside v. Thornton - - -	2 <i>W. Bl.</i> 1111. - 533
Knight v. Clements - - -	8 <i>A. & E.</i> 215. - 930
—— v. Gibbs - - -	1 <i>A. & E.</i> 42. - 287
—— v. Mory - - -	<i>Cro. Eliz.</i> 60. - 724
Knowles's Case - - -	{ 12 <i>How. St. Tr.</i> 1167. <i>S. C.</i> 2
	<i>Salk.</i> 509. 1 <i>Ld. Ray.</i> 10. - 82
Krans, Ex parte - - -	1 <i>B. & C.</i> 258. - 795

L

Lake v. King - - -	1 <i>Saund.</i> 133. - 89
Larke's Case - - -	1 <i>Hals. Pr.</i> 17. - 77
Law v. Ibbetson - - -	5 <i>Burr.</i> 2722. - 478
Layer's Case - - -	16 <i>How. St. Tr.</i> 95. - 97
Laythoarp v. Bryant - - -	2 <i>New Ca.</i> 755. - 695
Leake v. Robinson - - -	2 <i>Mer.</i> 363. - 588
Le Caux v. Eden - - -	2 <i>Doug.</i> 594. - 63
Leeming v. Fearnley, In re - - -	5 <i>B. & Ad.</i> 403. - 580
Lees v. Whitcomb - - -	5 <i>Bing.</i> 34. - 694
Lempriere v. Valpy - - -	5 <i>Sim.</i> 108. - 957
Leslie v. Guthrie - - -	1 <i>New Ca.</i> 697. - 295
Lester v. Garland - - -	15 <i>Ves.</i> 248. - 885
Lewis v. Walter - - -	4 <i>B. & Ald.</i> 605. - 181
Lillie v. Price - - -	5 <i>A. & E.</i> 645. - 16. 950
Lilly v. Hays - - -	5 <i>A. & E.</i> 548. - 590
Lindo v. Lord Rodney - - -	2 <i>Doug.</i> 613. note(1.) - 63
—— v. Simpson - - -	2 <i>Smith's Rep.</i> 659. - 507
Lockwood v. Slater - - -	5 <i>B. & Ad.</i> 303. - 869
London Chamberlain's Case - - -	5 <i>Rep.</i> 62 b. - 362
Lucas v. Dorrien - - -	7 <i>Taunt.</i> 278. - 897
Ludlow Charities, In re - - -	2 <i>Myl. & Cr.</i> 316. - 40
Luke v. Lyde - - -	2 <i>Burr.</i> 882. <i>S. C.</i> 1 <i>W. Bl.</i> 190. 322
Lutwidge v. Grey - - -	<i>Abbott on Shipping</i> , 507. - 322
Lyttleton v. Cross - - -	4 <i>B. & C.</i> 117. - 307

TABLE OF CASES CITED.

xix

M

			Page
<i>McCombie v. Davies</i>	-	- 6 <i>East</i> , 540.	- 864
<i>McGahey v. Alston</i>	-	- 2 <i>M. & W.</i> 306.	- 717
<i>McQueen v. Farquhar</i>	-	- 11 <i>Ves.</i> 477.	- 941
<i>Malden's Case</i>	-	- <i>Cro. Eliz.</i> 33.	- 646
<i>Malton, Prior of, Case</i>	-	- 1 <i>Hats. Pr.</i> 12.	- 77
<i>Manchester, Earl, v. Vale</i>	-	- 1 <i>Wms. Saund.</i> 28 a.	- 413. 501
<i>Manley v. Owen</i>	-	- 4 <i>Burr.</i> 2329.	- 97
<i>Markham v. Gonaston</i>	-	- <i>Cro. Eliz.</i> 626.	- 930
<i>Marsh v. Fawcett</i>	-	- 2 <i>H. Bl.</i> 582.	- 478
<i>Martin v. Wilsford</i>	-	- <i>Carth.</i> 523.	- 64
<i>Martyn v. Hendrickson</i>	-	- { 1 <i>Salk.</i> 287. <i>S. C.</i> 2 <i>Ld. Raym.</i> 1007.	- 493
<i>Matthews v. Sawell</i>	-	- 8 <i>Taunt.</i> 270.	- 851
<i>Massey v. Johnson</i>	-	- 12 <i>East</i> , 67.	- 636
<i>May v. Wood</i>	-	- 3 <i>Bro. C. C.</i> 471.	- 589
<i>Mellish v. Richardson</i>	-	- 7 <i>B. & C.</i> 819. 9 <i>Bing.</i> 125.	- 429
<i>Mellor v. Spateman</i>	-	- 1 <i>Wms. Saund.</i> 346 f.	- 427
<i>Melville's (Lord) Case</i>	-	- 29 <i>How. St. Tr.</i> 549.	- 97
<i>Men of Aylesbury's Case</i>	-	- { 2 <i>Ld. Ray.</i> 1105. <i>S. C.</i> 14 <i>How.</i> <i>St. Tr.</i> 849.	- 137
<i>Mestaer v. Hertz</i>	-	- 3 <i>M. & S.</i> 453.	- 844
<i>Millar v. Taylor</i>	-	- 4 <i>Burr.</i> 2329.	- 97
<i>Miller v. Falconer</i>	-	- 1 <i>Camp.</i> 251.	- 493
<i>Miles v. Williams</i>	-	- 1 <i>P. W.</i> 249.	- 869
<i>Milward v. Serjeant</i>	-	- 14 <i>East</i> , 59. note b.	- 83
<i>Mires v. Solebay</i>	-	- 2 <i>Mod.</i> 244.	- 867
<i>Mitchell v. Edie</i>	-	- 1 <i>T. R.</i> 611.	- 323
——— <i>v. Rodney</i>	-	- 2 <i>Br. Parl. C.</i> 423.	- 63
<i>Moodie v. Reid</i>	-	- 7 <i>Taunt.</i> 35. 1 <i>Mad.</i> 516.	- 943
<i>Mollett v. Brayne</i>	-	- 2 <i>Camp.</i> 105.	- 886
<i>Moncaster v. Watson</i>	-	- 3 <i>Burr.</i> 1375.	- 476
<i>Monopolies' Case</i>	-	- 10 <i>How. St. Tr.</i> 407.	- 40
<i>Moore v. Ramsden</i>	-	- 7 <i>A. & E.</i> 898.	- 477
<i>Moravia v. Levy</i>	-	- 2 <i>T. R.</i> 483. note (a)	- 534
<i>Morgan dem. Dowding v. Bissell</i>	-	- 3 <i>Taunt.</i> 65.	- 649
<i>Morgans v. Bridges</i>	-	- 1 <i>B. & Ald.</i> 647.	- 843
<i>Morish v. Foote</i>	-	- 8 <i>Taunt.</i> 454.	- 491
<i>Morton v. Burn</i>	-	- 7 <i>A. & E.</i> 19.	- 536
<i>Moss v. Gallimore</i>	-	- 1 <i>Doug.</i> 279.	- 347
<i>Mountney v. Watton</i>	-	- 2 <i>B. & Ad.</i> 673.	- 287
<i>Moyser v. Whitaker</i>	-	- 9 <i>B. & C.</i> 409.	- 378
<i>Mure v. Kaye</i>	-	- 4 <i>Taunt.</i> 43.	- 776
<i>Murray v. Addenbrook</i>	-	- 4 <i>Russ.</i> 407.	- 599
——— <i>'s (Alexander) Case</i>	-	- 1 <i>Wils.</i> 299.	- 57
<i>Myddleton v. Wynn</i>	-	- <i>Willes</i> , 605.	- 10

N

<i>Nash v. Coats</i>	-	- 3 <i>B. & Ad.</i> 839.	- 888
<i>Nelson v. Cherrell</i>	-	- 7 <i>Bing.</i> 663.	- 460
<i>Nevill v. Stroud</i>	-	- 2 <i>Sid.</i> 168.	- 69
<i>Newland v. Watkin</i>	-	- 9 <i>Bing.</i> 115. 2 <i>Mo. & Scott</i> , 174.	- 477
<i>Newsome v. Bowyer</i>	-	- 3 <i>P. W.</i> 37.	- 802

TABLE OF CASES CITED.

			Page
Newton v. Maxwell	-	2 C. & J. 215.	- 844
Nicholl v. Williams	-	2 M. & W. 758.	- 247
Noel v. Hoy	-	5 Mad. 38.	- 726
Nokes v. Frazer	-	5 Dowl. P. C. 339.	- 702
Norfolk, Duke, v. Worthy	-	1 Camp. 357.	- 348
Northampton, Mayor, &c. v. Ward	-	1 Wils. 107. S. C. 2 Stra. 1238.	414
Norton v. Ellam	-	2 M. & W. 461.	- 278

O

Ogden v. Folliot	-	3 T. R. 726.	- 769
Oliver's (Alderman) Case,	-	2 W. Bl. 758.	- 60
Olmus v. Delany	-	2 Stra. 1216.	- 271
Onslow's Case	-	2 Vent. 37.	- 69
Owen v. Knight	-	4 New Ca. 54.	- 863

P

Paddington Charities' Case	-	8 Sim. 629.	- 267
Page v. Wiple	-	3 East, 314.	- 270
Pain v. Patrick	-	3 Mod. 294.	- 415
Partington v. Woodcock	-	6 A. & E. 690.	- 344
Partridge v. Bere	-	5 B. & Ald. 604.	- 347
Paston's (Sir John) Case	-	{ 13 Rep. 64. Yearb. Hil. 4 Ed. 4. 43. A. pl. 4.	- 59
Pateshall v. Tranter	-	3 A. & E. 103.	- 517
Patten v. Thompson	-	5 M. & S. 350.	- 897
Pearson v. Graham	-	6 A. & E. 889.	- 306
Pemberton's (Sir Francis) Case	-	12 How. St. Tr. 822.	- 281
Peterborough, Lord, v. Williams	-	{ 2 Show. 505. 13 How. St. Tr. 1437.	- 73
Phillips's Case	-	{ 1 Alcock's Registry Cases Re- served, 20.	- 674
Philpott v. Kelly	-	3 A. & E. 106.	- 640
Phipps v. Williams	-	5 Sim. 44.	- 599
Pickersgill v. Palmer	-	Bull. N. P. 24.	- 636
Pinero v. Judson	-	6 Bing. 206.	- 851
Plantamour v. Staples	-	1 Marsh. Ins. 164. (3d ed.)	- 326
Platt v. Hall	-	2 M. & W. 391.	- 526
Pledall's Case	-	{ 14 East, 14. Prynne. Reg. part 4. p. 1213.	- 78
Plowden's Case	-	4 Inst. 17. 1 Parl. Hist. 625.	- 70
Poole v. Bentley	-	12 East, 168.	- 649
Pope v. Biggs	-	9 B. & C. 245.	344. 811
Poplett v. Stockdale	-	2 Car. & P. 198.	- 99
Porphyry v. Legingham	-	2 Keb. 344.	- 340
Potter v. North	-	1 Saund. 352.	413. 452
Potts v. Sparrow	-	1 New Ca. 594.	- 929
Powell v. Divett	-	15 East, 29.	- 929
—— v. Edmunds	-	12 East, 6.	- 319
Power, In re	-	2 Russ. 585.	- 772
Pratt, In re	-	7 A. & E. 27.	- 707
Price v. Harwood	-	3 Camp. 108.	- 844
Prideaux v. Morris	-	2 Salk. 502.	- 69
Protector and Streeter	-	Sty. 415. 5 How. St. Tr. 405.	- 54

TABLE OF CASES CITED.

xxi

	Page
Protheroe v. Elton - - -	8 Taunt. 457. - 493
Prudham v. Phillips - - -	Amb. 763. - 64
Pugh v. Duke of Leeds - - -	2 Cowp. 714. - 884
Pulsford v. Hunter - - -	3 Bro. Ca. Cha. 416. - 603
Putney v. Swann - - -	2 M. & W. 72. - 862
Pye's (Sir Robert) Case - - -	5 How. St. Tr. 948. - 54

Q

Quin v. Reynolds - - -	{ 3 M. & S. 144. Peacock's Rules K. B. p. 54. - 271
------------------------	--

R

Radford v. Smith - - -	3 M. & W. 254. 258. - 302
Ramsbottom v. Buckhurst - - -	2 M. & S. 565. - 474
----- v. Davis - - -	4 M. & W. 584. - 321
Randoll v. Doe dem. Roake - - -	5 Dow. 202. - 597
Reed v. Cowmeadow - - -	6 A. & E. 661. - 657
Reeves v. Slater - - -	7 B. & C. 486. - 848
Regina v. Baker - - -	7 A. & E. 502. - 750
----- v. Baldwin - - -	8 A. & E. 947. - 676
----- v. Brixham - - -	8 A. & E. 375. - 838
----- v. Lewis - - -	8 A. & E. 881. - 619
----- v. Liverpool, Mayor - - -	9 A. & E. 435. - 833
----- v. Paty - - -	{ 2 Ld. Raym. 1105. S. C. 2 Salk. 503. Reports temp. Holt, 526. 31
----- v. Poor Law Commissioners, In re } Strand Union - - -	9 A. & E. 901. - 913
----- v. Ricketts - - -	8 A. & E. 951. - 741
----- v. Roberts, W. - - -	7 A. & E. 441. - 682
----- v. St. Lawrence, Ludlow - - -	Michaelmas Term, 1839. - 716
----- v. Thomas and Philp - - -	7 A. & E. 608. - 713
----- v. Toke - - -	9 A. & E. 233. - 620
----- v. Wall Lynn - - -	8 A. & E. 379. - 826
----- v. Watts - - -	7 A. & E. 461. - 628
Rex v. Aberavon - - -	5 East, 453. - 452
----- v. Abingdon, Lord - - -	1 Esp. N. P. C. 226. - 100
----- v. Agar - - -	14 East, 256. - 438
----- v. Aire and Calder Navigation - - -	2 T. R. 660. - 620
----- v. Almon - - -	{ Wilmot's Opinions and Judgments, 354. - 99
----- v. Armstrong - - -	2 Cro. M. & R. 205. - 473
----- v. Bailey - - -	Moody's C. C. 23. - 680
----- v. Baillie - - -	21 How. St. Tr. 1. - 98
----- v. Banbury - - -	3 B. & Ad. 706. - 312
----- v. - - -	1 A. & E. 136. - 630
----- v. Bell - - -	7 T. R. 598. - 452
----- v. Beverley Commissioners - - -	6 A. & E. 645. - 439. 832
----- v. Biers - - -	1 A. & E. 327. - 691
----- v. Bond - - -	6 A. & E. 905. - 874
----- v. Borron - - -	3 B. & Ald. 432. - 710
----- v. Boulton - - -	4 A. & E. 498. - 486
----- v. Brame - - -	4 A. & E. 664. - 680
----- v. Bramley - - -	Burr. S. C. 75. - 632

			Page
Rex v. Buckingham	-	5 <i>B. & Ad.</i> 953.	- 630
— v. Burdett	-	1 <i>Ld. Raym.</i> 148.	- 413
— v. Carleton	-	<i>Burr. S. C.</i> 813.	- 623
— v. Carlile	-	2 <i>B. & Ad.</i> 971.	- 429
— v. Carlisle, Mary	-	3 <i>B. & Ald.</i> 167.	- 181
— v. Charles	-	<i>Burr. S. C.</i> 706.	- 312
— v. Cherry, Willingham	-	1 <i>B. & C.</i> 626.	- 826
— v. Cheshunt	-	1 <i>B. & Ald.</i> 473.	- 826
— v. Churchill	-	4 <i>B. & C.</i> 750.	- 452
— v. Clarke	-	1 <i>Burr.</i> 606.	- 742
— v. Clement	-	4 <i>B. & Ald.</i> 218.	- 94
— v. Clerk	-	1 <i>Salk.</i> 349.	- 752
— v. Cornish	-	2 <i>B. & Ad.</i> 498.	- 620
— v. Cowle	-	2 <i>Burr.</i> 856.	- 742
— v. Creevey	-	1 <i>M. & S.</i> 273.	- 100
— v. Dangerfield	-	3 <i>Mod.</i> 68.	- 73
— v. De Berenger	-	5 <i>M. & S.</i> 67.	- 689
— v. Ditcheat	-	9 <i>B. & C.</i> 176.	631. 673
— v. Eccles	-	{ 13 <i>East</i> , 230. <i>note</i> (d). <i>S. C.</i>	
	-	1 <i>Leach</i> , <i>C. C.</i> 274.	- 690
— v. Ellis	-	1 <i>M. & S.</i> 652.	- 452
— v. Eltham	-	5 <i>East</i> , 113.	- 624
— v. Ferrybridge	-	1 <i>B. & C.</i> 388.	- 816
— v. Field	-	5 <i>T. R.</i> 587.	- 826
— v. Fillongley	-	1 <i>T. R.</i> 458.	- 826
— v. Flower	-	8 <i>T. R.</i> 314.	- 60
— v. Fowle	-	4 <i>Car. & P.</i> 592.	- 688
— v. Gardner	-	<i>Cowp.</i> 79.	- 437
— v. —	-	<i>Trem. Pl. Cr.</i> 354.	- 780
— v. Gibbs	-	1 <i>Str.</i> 497.	- 688
— v. Gilbert	-	1 <i>East</i> , 583.	- 688
— v. Gill	-	2 <i>B. & Ald.</i> 204.	- 688
— v. Gloucester, Mayor, &c.	-	5 <i>T. R.</i> 346.	547. 872
— v. Gravesend	-	3 <i>B. & Ad.</i> 240.	- 697
— v. Great Bentley	-	10 <i>B. & C.</i> 520.	629. 673
— v. — Chilton	-	5 <i>T. R.</i> 672.]	- 630
— v. — and Little Usworth and North	-	{ 5 <i>A. & E.</i> 261.	- 678
Biddick	-		
— v. Halesworth	-	3 <i>B. & Ad.</i> 717.	- 262
— v. Hall	-	1 <i>B. & C.</i> 136.	- 566
— v. Hamilton	-	7 <i>Car. & P.</i> 448.	- 691
— v. Hampden	-	3 <i>How. St. Tr.</i> 825.	- 35
— v. Hardwick	-	11 <i>East</i> , 578.	- 714
— v. Heath	-	5 <i>A. & E.</i> 343.	- 620
— v. Henley-upon-Thames	-	6 <i>A. & E.</i> 294.	- 679
— v. Herstmonceaux	-	7 <i>B. & C.</i> 551.	- 629
— v. Hipswell	-	8 <i>B. & C.</i> 466.	- 697
— v. Hobhouse	-	{ 2 <i>Chitt. Rep.</i> 207. <i>S. C.</i> 3 <i>B. & Ald.</i> 420.	- 60
— v. Horne	-	<i>Cowp.</i> 672.	- 285
— v. Hull Dock Company	-	5 <i>M. & S.</i> 402.	- 834
— v. Hungerford Market Company (Ex parte Gosling	-	4 <i>B. & Ad.</i> 600.	- 464
— v. Iken	-	2 <i>A. & E.</i> 147.	- 826
— v. Ilkeston	-	4 <i>B. & C.</i> 64.	- 312
— v. Joddrell	-	1 <i>B. & Ad.</i> 403.	- 436
— v. Johnson	-	6 <i>East</i> , 583.	- 16
— v. Jones	-	4 <i>B. & Ad.</i> 349.	- 690

TABLE OF CASES CITED.

xxiii

		Page
Rex <i>v.</i> Justices of Derbyshire	- 6 <i>A. & E.</i> 885.	- 837
— <i>v.</i> — Flintshire	- 5 <i>B. & Ald.</i> 761.	- 872
— <i>v.</i> — Westmorland	- 10 <i>B. & C.</i> 226.	- 874
— <i>v.</i> — Wiltshire	- 8 <i>B. & C.</i> 380.	- 628
— <i>v.</i> Kelstern	- 5 <i>M. & S.</i> 136.	- 827
— <i>v.</i> Kimberley	- 2 <i>Stra.</i> 848.	- 761
— <i>v.</i> Kirdford	- 2 <i>East.</i> 559.	- 714
— <i>v.</i> Leeds	- 4 <i>B. & Ald.</i> 498.	- 625
— <i>v.</i> Liverpool	- 7 <i>B. & C.</i> 61.	437. 832
— <i>v.</i> Louth	- 8 <i>B. & C.</i> 247.	- 520
— <i>v.</i> Lower Heyford	- 1 <i>B. & Ad.</i> 75.	- 826
— <i>v.</i> Marks	- 3 <i>East.</i> 157.	- 791
— <i>v.</i> Mead	- 1 <i>Burr.</i> 542.	- 742
— <i>v.</i> Micklefield	- 1 <i>Bott.</i> 510. <i>pl.</i> 291. (6th ed.)	- 628
— <i>v.</i> Mildenhall Savings' Bank	- 6 <i>A. & E.</i> 952.	- 750
— <i>v.</i> Minster	- 5 <i>M. & S.</i> 276.	- 826
— <i>v.</i> Mirfield	- 10 <i>East.</i> 219.	817. 835
— <i>v.</i> Narbeth, North	- 9 <i>A. & E.</i> 815.	- 834
— <i>v.</i> Newcomb	- 4 <i>T. R.</i> 368.	- 628
— <i>v.</i> Parrot	- 5 <i>T. R.</i> 593.	- 832
— <i>v.</i> Phillips	- 3 <i>Camp.</i> 75.	- 690
— <i>v.</i> Platt	- 1 <i>Leach, C. C.</i> 157.	- 761
— <i>v.</i> Poor Law Commissioners		
In re Whitechapel Union	- 6 <i>A. & E.</i> 34.	- 906
In re St. Pancras	- 6 <i>A. & E.</i> 1. 8.	909. 912
— <i>v.</i> Richardson	- 1 <i>M. & Rob.</i> 402.	- 695
— <i>v.</i> Ringstead	- 7 <i>B. & C.</i> 607.	- 628
— <i>v.</i> Robe	- 2 <i>Stra.</i> 999.	- 688
— <i>v.</i> Roberts	- 1 <i>Show.</i> 589.	- 688
— <i>v.</i> St. Giles in the Fields	- 4 <i>A. & E.</i> 495.	- 672
— <i>v.</i> — York	- 3 <i>B. & Ad.</i> 575.	438. 832
— <i>v.</i> St. Mary Magdalen, Bermondsey	- 3 <i>East.</i> 5.	- 716
— <i>v.</i> —, Newington	- 5 <i>B. & Ad.</i> 540.	- 827
— <i>v.</i> St. Nicholas, Colchester	- 2 <i>A. & E.</i> 599.	- 672
— <i>v.</i> —, Rochester	- 4 <i>B. & Ad.</i> 219.	629. 672
— <i>v.</i> Salters' Load Sluice Commissioners	- 4 <i>T. R.</i> 730.	437. 855
— <i>v.</i> Seacroft	- 2 <i>M. & S.</i> 472.	- 827
— <i>v.</i> Sedgely	- 2 <i>B. & Ad.</i> 73.	- 819
— <i>v.</i> Seward	- 1 <i>A. & E.</i> 706.	- 689
— <i>v.</i> Shebbeare	- 1 <i>Burr.</i> 460.	- 742
— <i>v.</i> Sillifant	- 4 <i>A. & E.</i> 554.	- 872
— <i>v.</i> Starkey	- 7 <i>A. & E.</i> 95.	- 418
— <i>v.</i> Stockton	- 5 <i>B. & Ad.</i> 546.	- 624
— <i>v.</i> Stoke Damerel	- 6 <i>A. & E.</i> 308.	- 629
— <i>v.</i> Stratford-upon-Avon	- 11 <i>East.</i> 176.	- 312
— <i>v.</i> Sudbury	- 1 <i>B. & C.</i> 389.	- 452
— <i>v.</i> Suddis	- 1 <i>East.</i> 306.	- 754
— <i>v.</i> Tewkesbury	- 13 <i>East.</i> 155.	438. 452
— <i>v.</i> Tibbenham	- 9 <i>East.</i> 388.	- 624
— <i>v.</i> Trafford	- 1 <i>B. & Ad.</i> 874.	- 427
— <i>v.</i> Turner	- { 13 <i>East.</i> 230. <i>S. C.</i> 1 <i>Leach. C. C.</i> 274.	- 690
— <i>v.</i> Wagstaffe	- 1 <i>Sid.</i> 272.	- 27
— <i>v.</i> Watson	- 5 <i>East.</i> 480.	- 452
— <i>v.</i> Weaver Navigation Trustees	- 7 <i>B. & C.</i> 70. <i>note</i> (c)	437. 832
— <i>v.</i> White	- <i>Life of Foster.</i> 53.	- 789
— <i>v.</i> Wilkes	- 2 <i>Wils.</i> 151.	- 66
— <i>v.</i> Williams	- 13 <i>How. St. Tr.</i> 1570.	- 21

				Page
Rex v. Woburn	-	-	10 <i>East</i> , 395.	- 714
— v. Wright	-	-	8 <i>T. R.</i> 293.	- 10
— v. —	-	-	1 <i>A. & E.</i> 434.	- 427
— v. Wrottesley	-	-	1 <i>B. & Ad.</i> 648.	- 709
— v. York, Mayor, &c.	-	-	6 <i>A. & E.</i> 419.	438. 452
Rich v. Doughty	-	-	3 <i>Salk.</i> 149.	- 802
— v. Woolley	-	-	7 <i>Bing.</i> 651.	- 462
Richards v. Stuart	-	-	10 <i>Bing.</i> 322.	- 271
Richardson v. Mellish	-	-	3 <i>Bing.</i> 334. 346.	- 429
Ricketts v. Lewis	-	-	{ 2 <i>Cr. & J.</i> 11. <i>S. C.</i> 2 <i>Tyr.</i> 15.	
	-	-	1 <i>B. & Ad.</i> 197.	- 428
Rider and Fisher, In re	-	-	3 <i>New Ca.</i> 874.	- 526
Ridgway v. Hungerford Market Company	-	-	3 <i>A. & E.</i> 171.	- 552
Roberts v. Eden	-	-	1 <i>B. & P.</i> 398.	- 279
— v. Read	-	-	16 <i>East</i> , 215.	- 636
Robinson v. Hindman	-	-	3 <i>Esp.</i> 235.	- 552
Roe dem. Berkeley v. Archbishop of York	-	-	6 <i>East</i> , 86.	- 646
— Helling v. Yeud	-	-	3 <i>New Rep.</i> 214.	- 721
Rogers v. Humphreys	-	-	4 <i>A. & E.</i> 299.	- 347
— v. Pitcher	-	-	6 <i>Taunt.</i> 203.	- 263
Ross v. Ewer	-	-	5 <i>Atk.</i> 161.	- 961
Rotheroe v. Elton	-	-	1 <i>Peake's N. P. C.</i> 117.	- 493
Row v. Dawson	-	-	1 <i>Ves. Sen.</i> 331.	- 386
Ruddock's Case	-	-	6 <i>Co.</i> 25 a.	- 855
Ryder v. Cosins	-	-	1 <i>Hals. Pr.</i> 42.	- 78

S

St. Asaph, Dean of, Case	-	-	1 <i>Lord Erskine's Speeches</i> , 379.	- 30
St. Michael in Bath v. Nunny	-	-	1 <i>Str.</i> 544.	- 624
St. Martin's-in-Fields v. Warren	-	-	1 <i>B. & Ald.</i> 491.	- 638
Salmon v. Smith	-	-	1 <i>Wms. Saund.</i> 207 c.	- 306
Salter v. Slade	-	-	1 <i>A. & E.</i> 608.	- 429
Saltmarsh v. Hewett	-	-	1 <i>A. & E.</i> 812.	- 477
Sampayo v. De' Payba	-	-	5 <i>Taunt.</i> 85.	- 432
Samuel v. Duke	-	-	3 <i>M. & W.</i> 622.	- 863
Sandon v. Proctor	-	-	7 <i>B. & C.</i> 800.	- 371
Sapsford v. Fletcher	-	-	4 <i>T. R.</i> 511.	- 812
Savile v. Savile	-	-	1 <i>P. W.</i> 745.	- 515
Saxon v. Castle	-	-	6 <i>A. & E.</i> 652.	- 275
Say and Seal, Lord, v. Lady Catherine Jones	-	-	{ 3 <i>Bro. Parl. Ca.</i> 113.	- 887
Scandover v. Warne	-	-	2 <i>Camp.</i> 270.	- 843
Scarfe v. Morgan	-	-	4 <i>M. & W.</i> 270.	- 863
Scheibel v. Fairbain	-	-	1 <i>B. & P.</i> 388.	- 269
Schlencker v. Moxsy	-	-	3 <i>B. & C.</i> 789.	- 534
Scott v. Porcher	-	-	3 <i>Mer.</i> 652.	- 385
— v. Shearman	-	-	2 <i>W. Bl.</i> 977.	- 64
Scroggs' Case	-	-	{ 6 <i>Bac. Abr.</i> 530. (7th ed.) <i>Privilege (B.)</i> 2.	- 67
Saint John's Case	-	-	5 <i>Rep.</i> 71 b.	- 788
Selby v. Bardons	-	-	3 <i>B. & Ad.</i> 2.	- 856
Sells v. Hoare	-	-	1 <i>Bing.</i> 401.	- 290
Shadgett v. Clipson	-	-	8 <i>East</i> , 328.	- 843
Shaftesbury's (Lord) Case	-	-	{ 6 <i>How. St. Tr.</i> 1269. <i>S. C.</i> 1 <i>Mod.</i> 144.	- 56

TABLE OF CASES CITED.

xxv

	Page
Shapland v. Smith	887
Sharpe v. Thomas	474
Shaw v. Pritchard	474
— v. Weight	890
Shepley v. Davis	897
Sherborn v. Bostock	413
Sherman v. Barnes	494
Shirley v. Fagg	61
Short v. McCarthy	635
Shotter v. Friend	65
Silvester, dem. Law v. Wilson	887
Simeon v. Simeon	950
Skinner v. East India Company	72
Smith v. Birch	698
— v. Hayward	518
— v. Smith	393
Snow v. Poulnden	597
Somerset, Duchess of, v. Earl of Manchester	83
Sommerset's (James) Case	783
Spain v. Arnott	552
Spratt v. Jeffery	514
Stancliffe v. Hardwick	864
Stanhope v. Keir	944
Staniforth v. Fox	859
Stanley v. Stanley	891
Staunton v. Staunton	81
Stead v. Liddard	320
Stile v. Nokes	181
Still, Ex parte	466
Stockdale v. Hansard	95
— v. Onwhyn	99
Stockley v. Clement	284
Stokes v. White	272
Stonard v. Dunkin	897
Stradling v. Morgan	566
Streater's (Captain) Case	53
Street v. Blay	517
Strode's Case	70
Stroud and Others' Case	36
Sutton v. Clarke	636
Swallow v. City of London	789
Sweetapple v. Jesse	287
Sykes v. Dixon	662

T

Tanistry, Le Case de	421
Tash's Case	62
Taunton v. Costar	886
Taylor v. Devey	414
— and Fisher's Case	462
— v. Gregory	474

			Page
Taylor v. Young	-	- 5 <i>B. & Ald.</i> 521.	- 638
—— v. Zamira	-	- 6 <i>Taunt.</i> 524.	- 812
Thicknesse v. Lancaster Canal Company	-	- 8 <i>Law. J. N. S. Exch.</i> 49.	- 853
Thomas v. Desanges	-	- 2 <i>B. & Ald.</i> 586.	- 894
—— v. Morgan	-	- { 2 <i>Cro. M. & R.</i> 496. <i>S. C.</i> 5 <i>Tyr.</i>	
	-	- { 1085.	- 698
Thompson v. Maberley	-	- 2 <i>Camp.</i> 572.	- 659
—— v. Percival	-	- 5 <i>B. & Ad.</i> 925.	- 506
Thompson's Case	-	- 8 <i>How. St. Tr.</i> 1.	- 90
Thornton v. Adams	-	- 5 <i>M. & S.</i> 38.	- 459
Thorogood v. Clarke	-	- 2 <i>Sark. N. P. C.</i> 251.	- 277
Thorp's Case	-	- { 15 <i>Rep.</i> 63. 1 <i>Hats. Pr.</i> 28. <i>from</i>	
	-	- { 5 <i>Rot. Parl.</i> 239.	- 8. 46
Tibbits v. George	-	- 5 <i>A. & E.</i> 107.	- 391
Tiddy v. Simms	-	- 1 <i>Cox.</i> 362.	- 722
Tilley v. Simpson	-	- { 2 <i>T. R.</i> 659. <i>note (b).</i> <i>S. C.</i>	
	-	- { 1 <i>Cox.</i> 362.	- 725
Timewell v. Perkins	-	- 2 <i>Atk.</i> 102.	- 721
Tinsley v. Nassau	-	- <i>Moo. & Mal.</i> 52.	- 290
Topham v. Braddick	-	- 1 <i>Taunt.</i> 572.	- 637
Totterdell v. Glazby	-	- 2 <i>Wils.</i> 266.	- 363
Toussaint v. Martinnant	-	- 2 <i>T. R.</i> 100.	- 555
Trafford v. The King	-	- { 8 <i>Bing.</i> 204. <i>S. C.</i> 2 <i>Cr. & J.</i> 265.	
	-	- { 2 <i>Tyrwh.</i> 201.	- 427
Tresilian's (C. J.) Case	-	- 1 <i>Parl. Hist.</i> 194.	- 35
Trevelyan v. Roberts	-	- <i>Hardw.</i> 566.	- 534
Trewynnard's Case	-	- 1 <i>Hats. Pr.</i> 59.	- 77
Tunno and Bird, In re	-	- 5 <i>B. & Ad.</i> 488.	- 700
—— v. Morris	-	- { 2 <i>Cro. M. & R.</i> 298. <i>S. C.</i> 5 <i>Tyr.</i>	
	-	- { 949.	- 290
Turner v. Meymott	-	- 1 <i>Bing.</i> 158.	- 886
—— v. Robinson	-	- 5 <i>B. & Ad.</i> 789.	- 552
Tyson v. Smith	-	- 6 <i>A. & E.</i> 745.	- 409

U

Upward v. Knight	-	- 5 <i>New Ca.</i> 338.	- 867
------------------	---	-------------------------	-------

V

Vacher v. Cocks	-	- 1 <i>B. & Ad.</i> 153.	- 391
Vallance v. Savage	-	- 7 <i>Bing.</i> 595.	- 547
Vawdry v. Geddes	-	- 1 <i>Russ. & M.</i> 203.	- 592
Verdon v. Topham	-	- 2 <i>T. Jones.</i> 208.	- 78

W

Waddilove v. Barnett	-	- 2 <i>New Ca.</i> 538.	- 347. 812
Waite v. Bishop	-	- 1 <i>Cro. M. & R.</i> 507.	- 478
Wake v. Lock	-	- 5 <i>Car. & P.</i> 454.	- 494
Wallwyn v. Coutts	-	- 3 <i>Meriv.</i> 707.	- 479
Walwyn v. Awberry	-	- 1 <i>Mod.</i> 258.	- 480
Walsh's Case	-	- 1 <i>Hats. Pr.</i> 41.	- 132
Walton v. Tryon	-	- 2 <i>Guill.</i> 832.	- 818

TABLE OF CASES CITED.

xxvii

	Page
Ward v. Swift	1 Cr. & M. 171. S. C. 3 Tyrwh. 122. 945
Warman v. Faithfull	5 B. & Ad. 1042. - 647
Warter v. Hutchinson	1 B. & C. 721. 2 Brod. & B. 849. 597. 888
Waterfield v. Bishop of Chichester	2 Mod. 118. - 174
Watkinson v. Man	Cro. Eliz. 350. - 566
Watson's Case	32 How. St. Tr. 81. - 94
Watson v. Carroll	4 M. & W. 592. - 272
Wayland's (C. J.) Case	3 How. St. Tr. 1275. - 54
Wedge v. Berkeley	6 A. & E. 665. - 657
Weldon v. Green	2 Burr. Ec. L. 55. - 870
Weller v. Governors of Foundling Hospital	1 Peake. N. P. C. 206. (3d ed.) - 717
Wellesley v. Duke of Beaufort	2 Russ. & Mylne, 639. - 14
Wellington v. Wellington	2 Burr. 2165. - 889
Wells v. Ody	2 Cro. M. & R. 128. S. C. 5 Tyr. 725. - 657
Wharton v. Walker	4 B. & C. 163. - 385
Whitmore v. Waterhouse	4 Car. & P. 383. - 494
White v. The British Museum	6 Bing. 310. - 962
Whitehead v. Clifford	5 Taunt. 518. - 886
Whitehouse v. Frost	12 East, 614. - 897
Wilce v. Wilce	7 Bing. 664. - 725
Wilkinson v. Merryland	Cro. Car. 447. 449. - 722
Williams v. Bosanquet	1 B. & B. 238. - 811
—— v. Brown	1 Curteis, Eccl. Rep. 53. - 478
—— v. Byrne	7 A. & E. 177. - 696
—— v. Everett	14 East, 582. - 390
—— v. Pritchard	4 T. R. 2. - 910
—— v. Rawlinson	3 Bing. 71. S. C. Ry. & Moo. 233. 301
——'s (Sir William) Case	13 How. St. Tr. 1369. - 11
Willoughby v. Backhouse	2 B. & C. 821. - 290
Wilson v. Coupland	5 B. & Ald. 229. - 385
Winch v. Keeley	1 T. R. 619. - 295
Winchester, Case of Bishop of	4 Inst. 15. Yearb. Pasch. 5 Ed. 3. fo. 18 B. pl. 32. - 69
Winton, Mayor of, v. Wilks	2 Ld. Raym. 1129. - 364
Withers v. Lyss	4 Camp. 237. - 899
Withnell v. Gartham	1 Esp. N. P. C. 322. - 717
Woods v. Reed	2 M. & W. 777. - 872
Woollam v. Kenworthy	9 Ves. 137. - 727
Woolley v. Idle	4 Burr. 1951. - 364
Wordall v. Smith	1 Camp. 332. - 289
Wright v. Barlow	3 M. & S. 512. - 945
——, Ex parte	2 B. & Ad. 348. - 466
—— v. Pearson	1 Eden's Ca. Chanc. 119. - 890
—— v. Wakeford	4 Taunt. 213. S. C. 17 Ves. 454. 940
Wynne v. Middleton	1 Wils. 125. - 69

Y

Yates v. Bell	3 B. & Ald. 643. - 390
—— v. Whyte	4 New Ca. 272. - 290
Year-Book	Pasch. 3 Ed. 3. f. 18. B. pl. 32. - 69
——	39 Ed. 3. f. 14. A. - 79
——	Lib. Ass. 38. Ed. 3. f. 224. B. pl. 14. - 79
——	Trin. 40 Ed. 3. f. 27. B. pl. 5. - 567

				Page
Year-Book -	-	-	- <i>Trin. 2 H. 4. f. 24. B. pl. 20.</i>	- 422
_____ -	-	-	- <i>Hil. 4. Ed. 4. 43. A. pl. 4.</i>	- 59
_____ -	-	-	- <i>Mich. 8 Ed. 4. f. 18. B. pl. 30.</i>	- 412
_____ -	-	-	- <i>21 Ed. 4. f. 28. B. pl. 23.</i>	- 413
_____ -	-	-	- <i>22 Ed. 4. f. 8. B. pl. 24.</i>	- 413
_____ -	-	-	- <i>21 H. 7. f. 20. A. pl. 2.</i>	- 422
_____ -	-	-	- <i>21 H. 7. f. 40. A. pl. 61.</i>	- 422
Yeates v. Groves	-	-	- <i>1 Ves. Jun. 280.</i>	- 392
York, Mayor, v. Welbank	-	-	- <i>4 B. & Ald. 458.</i>	- 364
Young v. Hockley	-	-	- <i>3 Wils. 346.</i>	- 638
_____ v. Taylor	-	-	- <i>8 Taunt. 315.</i>	- 638
_____ v. Timmins	-	-	- <i>1 Cro. & J. 351. S. C. 1 Tyr. 226.</i>	697

During some part of the period comprised in this volume the Reporters have been favoured with the assistance of *Edward Smirke*, of the *Middle Temple*, Esquire, Barrister-at-Law. The cases reported by Mr. *Smirke* are pointed out as they occur.

C A S E
OF
STOCKDALE AGAINST HANSARD, 1839.
DETERMINED
IN THE
Court of QUEEN'S BENCH,
IN
Trinity Term,
In the Second Year of the Reign of VICTORIA.

JOHN JOSEPH STOCKDALE *against* JAMES HANSARD, LUKE GRAVES HANSARD, LUKE JAMES HANSARD, and LUKE HENRY HANSARD (*a*).

CASE. The declaration (*May* 30th, 1837) stated that, before and at the time of committing the grievance next hereinafter complained of, the said plaintiff was, and for a long time had been, a bookseller and publisher of books, and, as such bookseller and publisher of books, had published divers and very many scientific books, and particularly, in the year 1827, a certain physiological and thereupon became part of the proceedings of the House, and which was afterwards, by orders of the House, printed and published by defendant; and that the House of Commons heretofore resolved, declared, and adjudged "that the power of publishing such of its reports, votes, and proceedings as it shall deem necessary or conducive to the public interests is an essential incident to the constitutional functions of parliament, more especially to the Commons' House of Parliament as the representative portion of it."

It is no defence in law to an action for publishing a libel, that the defamatory matter is part of a document which was, by order of the House of Commons, laid before the House,

On demurrer to a plea suggesting such a defence, a court of law is competent to determine whether or not the House of Commons has such privilege as will support the plea.

(=) This case, on account of its importance, has been placed out of its order, for the purpose of early publication.

1839.
 ———
 STOCKDALE
 against
 HANSARD.
Pleadings.

and anatomical book written by a learned physician on the generative system, illustrated by anatomical plates : and, whereas the said defendants, on 1st *May* 1836, did publish and cause to be published in a certain book, purporting to be "Reports of the Inspectors of the Prisons of Great Britain," the passage following, that is to say : " This last is a book " (meaning the said physiological and anatomical book) " of a most disgusting nature ; and the plates are indecent and obscene in the extreme ; " whereas, in truth and in fact, the said book is purely of a scientific character : Yet the said defendants, well knowing the premises, but contriving and maliciously intending to defame and injure the said plaintiff in his said trade of a bookseller and publisher, and cause it to be believed that he published indecent and obscene books, on 19th *August*, A. D. 1836, maliciously and falsely did publish, and cause to be published, of and concerning the said plaintiff, in his said trade and business, in a certain printed paper, purporting to be a copy of the Reply of the Inspectors of Prisons for the Home District, with regard to the Report of the Court of Aldermen, to whom it was referred to consider the First report of the inspectors of prisons as far as relates to the gaol of *Newgate*, which said copy of the Reply purports to be a letter from *William Crawford* and *Whitworth Russell*, Esquires, inspectors of prisons for the Home District, to the Right Honourable Lord *John Russell*, &c., the false, scandalous, and defamatory libel following, that is to say, — " But we deny that that book is a scientific work (using that term in its ordinary acceptation), or that the plates are purely anatomical, calculated only to attract the attention of persons connected with surgical science ; and we adhere to the terms which

which we have already employed, as those only by which to characterise such a book" (meaning thereby that the said book was disgusting and obscene, as stated in the above-mentioned report of the inspectors of prisons of *Great Britain*): and, in another part of the said libel, to the substance and effect following, that is to say: "We also applied to several medical booksellers, who all gave it the same character. They described it as one of *Stockdale's* obscene books" (meaning thereby that the plaintiff was a common publisher of obscene books); "that it never was considered as a scientific work; that it never was written for or bought by the members of the profession as such; that it was intended to take young men in, by inducing them to give an exorbitant price for an indecent work:" To the great injury of the said plaintiff in his said trade and business, and also of his fair fame and reputation, and to the damage of the said plaintiff of 5000*l.*" &c.

Plea (of *July 6th*, 1837). That, heretofore and before the commencement of this suit, and after the making of a certain act of parliament, made and passed at the parliament begun and holden at *Westminster* on 19th *February* 1835, entitled, "An act for effecting greater uniformity of practice in the government of the several prisons in *England* and *Wales*; and for appointing inspectors of prisons in *Great Britain* (a)," to wit on 1st *January*, A. D. 1836, the Right Honourable *John Russell* (commonly called the Right Honourable Lord *John Russell*), then being one of his late Majesty's principal secretaries of state, in pursuance of the said act, nominated and appointed *William Crawford*, Esquire,

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.
Pleadings.

(a) Stat. 5 & 6 W. 4. c. 38.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.
Pleadings.

and the Rev. *Whitworth Russell* to visit and inspect, either singly or together with any other inspector or inspectors appointed under the provisions of the said act, every gaol, bridewell, house of correction, penitentiary, or other prison or place kept for the confinement of prisoners in any part of *Great Britain*: and that afterwards, viz. on 1st *March* in the year aforesaid, they, the said *William Crawford* and *Whitworth Russell*, as such inspectors as aforesaid, made their report in writing of the state of a certain gaol and prison in the city of *London* called *Newgate*, and transmitted the same to the said Right Honourable *John Russell* (commonly called &c.), then being such Secretary of State as aforesaid, in pursuance of the said act of parliament. And that heretofore, and before the publication of the said supposed libel in the declaration mentioned, viz. on 13th *August* A. D. 1835, a parliament of our Sovereign Lord his late Majesty King *William IV.* was holden at *Westminster* in the county aforesaid; and it was in and by the Commons' House of the said Parliament then, to wit on the day and year last aforesaid, resolved and ordered that the parliamentary papers and reports printed for the use of the House should be rendered accessible to the public by purchase at the lowest price at which they could be furnished, and that a sufficient number of extra copies should be printed for that purpose: And that afterwards, at a parliament of our late said Lord the King, holden at *Westminster* in the year 1836, and before the publication of the said supposed libel in the said declaration mentioned, viz. on 9th *February* 1836, it was ordered by the said Commons' House of Parliament that a select committee should be appointed to assist Mr. Speaker in all mat-

ters

ters which related to the printing executed by order of the House: And that afterwards, and before the publication of the said supposed libel, viz. on the day and year last aforesaid, a select committee was duly appointed by the said House, in pursuance of the said last-mentioned order, for the purposes in the said order mentioned: And that afterwards, and before the publication of the said supposed libel, and whilst the said last-mentioned parliament was so sitting as aforesaid, viz. on 18th March in the year last aforesaid, it was resolved by the said committee, appointed in pursuance of the said last-mentioned order of the said House, (amongst other things) that the parliamentary papers and reports printed by order of the House should be sold to the public at certain specified rates, and that Messrs. *Hansard* (meaning the said defendants), the printers of the House, be appointed to conduct the sale thereof: And that afterwards, and before the said publication of the said supposed libel, and whilst the said last-mentioned parliament was sitting, viz. on 18th March in the year last aforesaid, a copy of the said report of the said *William Crawford* and *Whitworth Russell*, so being inspectors of prisons as aforesaid, was laid before the said Commons' House of Parliament, pursuant to the directions of the said Act of Parliament: And that afterwards, and before the publication of the said supposed libel, and whilst the said parliament was so sitting as aforesaid, viz. on 22d March in the year last aforesaid, it was in and by the said Commons' House of Parliament ordered that the said report of the inspectors of prisons should be printed: Whereupon the said defendants, then being printers employed for that purpose by the said House, did afterwards, to wit on the day

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.
Pleadings.

1839:

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.
Pleadings.

and year last aforesaid, in pursuance of the said orders and resolutions, print and publish the said Report: And that afterwards, and during the sitting of the said last-mentioned parliament, and before the publication of the said supposed libel, viz. on 5th *July* 1836, it was ordered, by the said Commons' House of Parliament, that there should be laid before that House a copy of a report made, on the 2d *July* 1836, by a Committee of the Court of Aldermen to that Court, upon the said Report of the said inspectors of prisons in relation to the gaol of *Newgate*: And that, in pursuance of the said last-mentioned order, the said Report made on 2d *July* 1836 was laid before the said Commons' House of Parliament, and was thereupon then ordered by the said Commons' House of Parliament to be printed: and that afterwards, viz. on 22d *July* in the year aforesaid, they, the said *W. Crawford* and *W. Russell*, so being such inspectors as aforesaid, transmitted to the said Right Honourable *John Russell* (commonly called &c.), then being one of his late Majesty's principal secretaries of state as aforesaid, a certain reply in writing of them the said *W. Crawford* and *W. Russell*, as such inspectors as aforesaid, with regard to the said Report of the said Court of Aldermen mentioned in the said last-mentioned order of the said Commons' House of Parliament; and afterwards, and before the publication of the said supposed libel, viz. on 25th *July* in the year aforesaid, a copy of the said Reply of the said inspectors of prisons for the Home district, with regard to the said report of the said Committee of Aldermen, was, in pursuance of an order of the said Commons' House of Parliament for that purpose made on the day and year last aforesaid, presented to and laid before the said House;

House; and thereupon the same then became and was part of the proceedings of the said Commons' House of Parliament: And it was afterwards, and before the publication of the said supposed libel, and during the sitting of the said last mentioned parliament, viz. on 26th July in the year last aforesaid, ordered by the said Commons' House of Parliament that the said Reply of the said inspectors should be printed: Whereupon the said defendants, so being printers as aforesaid, and employed for that purpose, did, by the authority of the said Commons' House of Parliament, and in pursuance of the said orders and resolutions of the said Commons' House of Parliament, print the said reply of the said inspectors of prisons, as directed and required by the said orders and resolutions of the said House, and did publish the same by the authority of the said Commons' House of Parliament, and as directed and authorised by the said orders and resolutions, and not otherwise howsoever, as it was lawful for them to do for the cause aforesaid: And the said defendants further say that the said Report and the said Reply, which the said defendants so printed and published as in this plea mentioned, are the same report and reply as are mentioned in the said declaration, and that the said matter in the said declaration charged as libellous is contained in the said report and reply in this plea mentioned, and that the publishing the same matter, as charged in the said declaration, is the same publishing as in this plea mentioned, and not other and different, and that the said defendants did not ever publish the said libellous matter in the said declaration mentioned otherwise or on any other occasion than as in this plea mentioned: And the said defendants further say, that the said Commons' House of Parliament heretofore, viz. on 31st May in

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANBARD.
Pleadings.

STOCKDALE AGAINST HANSARD,

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.
Pleadings.

the year last aforesaid, resolved, declared, and adjudged that the power of publishing such of its reports, votes, and proceedings as it shall deem necessary or conducive to the public interests is an essential incident to the constitutional functions of parliament, more especially to the Commons' House of Parliament as the representative portion of it. Verification.

Demurrer (*July 8th, 1837*), assigning for causes: That the known and established laws of the land cannot be superseded, suspended, or altered by any resolution or order of the House of Commons; and that the House of Commons, in parliament assembled, cannot, by any resolution or order of themselves, create any new privilege to themselves inconsistent with the known laws of the land; and that, if such power be assumed by them, there can be no reasonable security for the life, liberty, property, or character of the subjects of this realm.

Joinder in demurrer.

The demurrer was argued in *Easter* term, *April 23d*, 24th, and 25th, and *Trinity* term, *May 28th, 1839*.

Curwood.
Tuesday,
April 23d.

Curwood for the plaintiff.

Upon these pleadings the questions are:—Has the party a right to sue for the injury complained of? Can that right be abridged by any authority but that of the legislature? Has the House of Commons the right to assume that authority, and to be the sole judge of its existence and extent? The House rests its claim on what is termed the "Law of Parliament;" but there is a fallacy in asserting the privilege of either House to be alone the law of parliament. *Thorpe's Case (a)* has

(a) 5 *Rotuli Parliamentorum*, 239. Cited, 1 *Hatsell's Precedents*, 28. 3d ed. (see p. 20. note (a), post). See *Coke's 4th Institute*, 15; 14 *East*, 25.

been

been usually cited in support of this claim of exclusive cognizance; but the *dictum* attributed to the Judges in that case, as to the privileges of parliament, is correct only when applied to the whole parliament, and not to each separate branch of it. It must be referred to a period when the King, Lords, and Commons constituted the supreme court of judicature, and the distinction of Houses was imperfectly marked. At this day the functions of each branch of the legislature are defined; and it is clear that neither the King alone, nor either House separately, can make or declare law. The inconvenience of a different state of things is evident. Each House might make contradictory declarations of law, and each declaration would equally be the "Law of Parliament." The resolutions of the House of Commons are relied upon in the plea; but, if such resolutions could make law, the legislative, judicial, and executive powers of the state would soon be absorbed by that House. The authorities are for the most part collected in Mr. *Pemberton's* pamphlet (a), and in the argument of *Holroyd J.* in *Burdett v. Abbot* (b). A few will be sufficient to shew that the courts of law have, from a very early period, taken upon themselves to decide and to declare the law as to parliamentary privilege. One of the earliest cases is that of *Donne v. Walsh* (c), 12 *Ed. 4.*, in which the Court of Exchequer determined that the servant of an Earl was entitled to be discharged from arrest during

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANNAH.
Curwood.

(a) "A letter to Lord Langdale on the recent proceedings in the House of Commons on the subject of privilege, by Thomas Pemberton, M.P." 1837. See also "Remarks on a report from a select committee of the late House of Commons on the publication of printed papers;" by P. A. Pickering, M.A., 1838.

(b) 14 *East*, 11, et seq.

(c) 1 *Hatsell's Precedents*, 41, citing *Prynne's Register of Parliamentary Writs*, part 4. p. 752.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Curwood.

the sitting of parliament, but was not exempt from being sued, although the writ of privilege produced by the defendant to the Barons of the Exchequer claimed immunity in both respects (a). The privileges of the House are as much a part of the law of the land as the statute, ecclesiastical, or admiralty law, all of which must be noticed and determined by the courts of common law, when brought before them in the ordinary course of justice. *Barnardiston v. Soame* (b) and *Benyon v. Evelyn* (c) are also decisive authorities. In the former case, a court of law undertook to adjudicate on a double return at an election of members, although exclusive cognizance of such matters was claimed for the House of Commons (d). In the latter, Sir O. Bridgman decided that members of the House of Commons were liable to be sued during a sitting of parliament, although it was said that a committee of the House had voted in favour of their exemption. *Rex v. Wright* (e) will be relied upon, where Lord Kenyon is reported to have said that it was impossible to admit the proceeding of either House to be a libel, and that this Court would not enquire into it. That case was an application to the discretion of the Court for leave to file a criminal information against a person who had printed a correct copy of a

(a) "Arrestari minimè debeant, imprisonari, aut implicitari." Prynne says, in a marginal note on the last two words, "This was a new clause and privilege."

(b) 6 *Howell's State Trials*, 1063; *S. C. 2 Levinz*, 114; *Freeman*, (K. B. & C. P.) 380, 387, 390, 430.

(c) *Reports of Sir O. Bridgman's Judgments*, 324.

(d) The judgment was reversed on error in the Exchequer Chamber, and the judgment of the Exchequer Chamber was affirmed in the House of Lords; 6 *How. Sta. Tri.* p. 1117. But see *Myddelton v. Wynn*, *Willes*, 605, 606.

(e) 8 *Term Rep.* 293.

report

report of the House of Commons. The Court refused, in their discretion, to grant it, and properly; but it does not follow that every dictum attributed to the Court in giving judgment is to be accepted as sound law. The language there used is, in fact, at variance with the later authority of Lord *Ellenborough*, in *Burdett v. Abbot* (a), who distinctly reserves the right of the Courts to enquire into the proceedings of the House in the supposed case of an extravagant and unwarrantable assumption of power. The case of Sir *W. Williams* (b) might be quoted, in which the Speaker was convicted and fined for the publication of *Dangerfield's* narrative under the sanction of the House of Commons; but it cannot be denied that the precedent is too exceptionable to be relied on (c).

As to the plaintiff's right to sue, the present case is stronger than that of *Ashby v. White* (d). In that case there was some pretence for a claim of exclusive cognizance by the House, for it was not disputed that the House has exclusive right to judge of the validity of elections to serve in parliament: but the House of Lords decided, upon a writ of error, that the right of suffrage was a franchise, for the disturbance of which the voter was entitled to a common law remedy, and was not constrained to seek redress only by application to the House of Commons.

Then, supposing the courts of law to have cognizance of the privileges of parliament, the question in this case

(a) 14 *East*, 128.

(b) 13 *How. Sta. Tri.* 1369.

(c) Proceedings were taken in order to a reversal of the judgment upon the Revolution, but it does not appear to have been ever actually reversed. See the observations of Mr. *Wynn*, 13 *How. Sta. Tri.* 1438.

(d) 14 *How. Sta. Tri.* 695. *S. C.* 2 *Ld. Raymond*, 938.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.
Curwood.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.
Curwood.

is, whether the House of Commons has the privilege of enabling individuals to publish for general sale and circulation whatever that House pleases with impunity? The first proof of the exercise of this privilege is found in 1641 (*a*), a very suspicious period for its commencement. Popular ferment ran high, and parties in the state were preparing to appeal to force. From that period downwards, the journals of the House of Commons contain numerous entries, by which it appears that ridiculous, illegal, and tyrannical privileges have been asserted by that House. A mere enumeration of them, for the period of about a century after the Restoration, is enough to shew the degree of weight that should be attached to the orders of the House on such subjects, as entered on its journals, and the mischief of leaving it to be the sole judge of the existence and limits of its privilege. The most trifling civil injuries to members, even trespasses committed upon their servants, though on occasions unconnected with the discharge of any parliamentary duty, have been repeatedly the subject of enquiry under the head of privilege (*b*). If the declaration

(*a*) See the "Report from the Select Committee" (of the House of Commons) "on the publication of printed Papers" (*May 8th, 1837*), p. 3, and (Appendix) p. 19.

(*b*) The following is the result of the cases, as it was stated in the argument.

Cases voted breaches of privilege, between the Restoration and 1697.

(The number of cases, not the number of persons, was stated.)

Delivering ejectments to members of parliament	-	-	15
Serving process on members of parliament	-	-	5
Serving them with subpoenas (probably subpoenas out of Chancery)			16
Entering on their estates	-	-	24
Entering the mines of a member of parliament	-	-	1
Pulling down a scaffold at Mr. Bertie's	-	-	1
Distraining the goods of members of parliament	-	-	13
Impounding their cattle	-	-	3

Lopping

declaration of the House is to be establish the existence of such privileges, and the House itself is exclusively to adjudicate upon them, the authority of the law is superseded.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Curwood.

In

	Cases
Lopping Mr. Scowen's trees - - -	- 1
Serving the tenants of members of parliament with ejectments -	16

During the same period persons were ordered into custody in the following cases.

For delivering ejectments to members of parliament - -	7
Serving subpoenas on them - - -	12
Entering on their estates - - -	5
Entering the mines of a member of parliament - -	1
Pulling down a scaffold (Mr. Bertie's) - - -	1
Detaining the goods of members of parliament - -	10
Stopping up their lanes - - -	2
Driving their cattle - - -	2
Cutting down trees of a member of parliament - -	1
Entering on estates - - -	3
Arresting the servants of members of parliament - -	49
Serving ejectments on tenants of members of parliament - -	4
Seizing the cattle of a tenant of a member of parliament - -	1
Serving the tenant of a member of parliament with process -	1

From 1697 to 1714, the following cases of breach of privilege occur.

By delivery of declarations in ejectment to members of parliament -	2
Entering their lands, &c. - - -	9
Serving ejectments on their tenants - - -	3

Under the date of 1606, a person named *Digland* is voted guilty of a breach of privilege, in taking the horse of Mr. *James* (the member for *Bristol*) from an inn stable, and riding it post (a).

In 1700, *Rogers*, an attorney, was committed for breach of privilege, in sending an exorbitant bill of costs to the Gunners at *Portsmouth* (b).

From the year 1714 to 1761, the following instances occur.

Ejectments against members - - -	4
Injuries to their property - - -	51

Among the latter are the following.

In the year 1728. Digging Lord *Gage's* coal (c).

1729. Ploughing Mr. *Bowles's* land (d).

(a) *Com. Journ.* vol. i. p. 352.

(c) *Id.* vol. xiii. p. 313.

(b) *Id.* vol. xxi. p. 116.

(d) *Id.* vol. xxi. p. 511.

In

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.
Curwood.

In the case of Mr. *Long Wellesley* (l) the Lord Chancellor (Lord *Brougham*) committed a member of the House of Commons (then sitting) for a contempt of court, and refused to allow his claim of privilege. In disregarding the claim, he must necessarily have taken upon himself to determine the nature and extent of the privileges of the House. If it be asked why the exercise of these privileges has been so frequently suffered without calling them in question in the ordinary courts of justice, it may be answered that the power of the body which sought to enforce them has been too formidable to

In the year 1733. Digging Sir *Robert Grosvenor's* lead (a).

1739. Killing Lord *Gahway's* rabbits (b).

1742. Assaulting Sir *Watkin Williams Wynn's* porter, in *Downing Street* (c).

1753. Fishing in Mr. *Joliffe's* pond (d).

1759. Entering upon Admiral *Griffin's* fishery (e).

1759. Taking fish from Sir *John Glynne's* water (g).

1756. Erecting a building, posts, and rails, on Sir *Cordel Firebrace's* waste in *Suffolk* (h).

1760. Digging in Earl *Verney's* ground, and carrying away a tree (i).

During the same period are the following cases of privilege.

Ejectments served on the servants of members of parliament - 3

Serving legal process on the servants of members of parliament - 9

Under the date of *March 16th*, 1760, is the following entry (k).

"Resolved that it is the opinion of this committee, that Sir *Richard Perrot*, having entered into possession of a cellar, in the occupation of a tenant of *Charles Fitzroy Scudamore*, Esquire, a member of this House, is thereby guilty of a breach of the privilege of this House. — Ordered, that the said Sir *Richard Perrot* be for his said breach of privilege taken into the custody of the serjeant-at-arms attending this House."

(l) 2 *Russell & Mylne*, 639.

(a) *Com. Journ.* vol. xxii. p. 102. (g) *Com. Journ.* vol. xxviii. p. 598.

(b) *Id.* vol. xxiii. p. 505.

(h) *Id.* vol. xxvii. p. 636.

(c) *Id.* vol. xxiv. p. 391.

(i) *Id.* vol. xxviii. p. 915.

(d) *Id.* vol. xxvi. p. 698.

(k) *Id.* vol. xxviii. p. 1107.

(e) *Id.* vol. xxviii. pp. 489, 545.

be

be discreetly or safely resisted; and that the long continuance of a bad usage is not decisive of its legality; for the use of secret torture is shewn (a) to have prevailed in this country during the very period when its practice was disclaimed by the courts of law, and denounced by the greatest lawyers (a). Irregular practices and undefined claims of privilege grow up in unsettled times: and they pass unresisted until some suitable occasion arises for submitting them to examination, when they are found to be unwarrantable, and are extinguished.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.
Curwood.

Sir J. Campbell, Attorney-General, contra.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.
April 23d, 24th,
25th.

The House of Commons is called before an inferior tribunal for authorizing a publication which it thought beneficial to the community, and essential to the discharge of its legislative functions. The right to do so is an ancient privilege recognized by legislative declarations, and never questioned, since the Revolution, except by the plaintiff. The assertion of that right is a claim of free intercourse between members of the House and their constituents, advanced solely for the public benefit, and it is, in a peculiar manner, one of those "Rights and Privileges of Parliament" described in the Remonstrance of both Houses to Charles I. (December 1641) (b), as "the birthright and inheritance, not only of themselves, but of the whole Kingdom."

The House of Commons has directed the defendant to appear and plead to this action; but it does not thereby submit its privileges to the decision of this Court,

(a) He cited *Jardine's Reading on the Use of Torture*, 1837.

(b) 2 *Parl. Hist.* 978.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

or of any other tribunal than itself. The only object of the pleading is to inform the Court, in a regular way, that the act complained of was done in exercise of its authority and in the legitimate use of its privileges. The fact that it was so done is admitted by the demurrer; and nothing remains for this Court but to give judgment for the defendants. Another and a summary remedy might have been adopted; but the House, having confidence in the tribunals of the country, deems it expedient to refer the case to the consideration of the Court in the ordinary course of justice, thereby giving to the plaintiff an opportunity either of denying that the act was done under the alleged authority, or of shewing that the authority has been exceeded.

That the publication is criminatory cannot be denied; nor that the declaration shews a good ground of action: but this is not a libel; a libel is a criminatory writing published without just occasion or authority. Where the occasion justifies the publication, as in the case of a publication for the use of members, or an answer to enquiries respecting the character of a servant, it is no libel, and any consequential loss to the party is *damnum absque injuriâ*. Then, as to the plea, it is in bar and not to the jurisdiction. The latter is applicable only where the subject of complaint is *alieni fori*, to which *forum* the plaintiff is referred for the proper remedy. Here, where the Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of the action, as disclosed in the declaration, a plea in bar, and not to the jurisdiction, is proper; *Rex v. Johnson* (a). There is no other Court to which

(a) 6 East, 583. As to the necessity of a confession and avoidance, see *Fairman v. Ives*, 5 Barn. & Ald. 642; *Cotton v. Browne*, 3 A. & E. 312; *Lillie v. Price*, 5 A. & E. 645.

the

the plaintiff can be referred for redress; the publication furnishes no ground of complaint any where or in any court. Suppose in an action of trespass the defendant pleaded a commitment by the House for prevarication, or for non-attendance on due summons, or for an assault on a member in the House, or the Speaker in the chair; would it be competent to this Court, upon such a plea, to enquire whether any privilege to commit existed? Yet, if this demurrer is to prevail, there is no tribunal before which the nicest question of privilege may not be discussed.

The plea refers to stat. 5 & 6 W. 4. c. 38. s. 7., which requires an annual report to be made by the Inspectors of prisons to the Secretary of State, and a copy of the report to be laid before both Houses. The object of this latter provision was to ensure publicity. The plea states the due appointment of Inspectors; the resolutions and orders of the House with respect to the publication and sale of papers; the several reports of the Inspectors and of the court of aldermen, and the order of the House to print the reports; and it concludes by setting out the resolution of the House, that the power of publishing its reports, &c., is an essential incident to its functions. All this is admitted by the demurrer, which assigns for special causes a series of truisms. It is objected that the House cannot alone supersede, suspend, or alter the law of the land. No such power is claimed. The House only claims a right to declare and explain the law of the land respecting its own privilege. In doing so, it no more alters or makes law than this Court does when it declares the common law in the ordinary course. The House does not claim the power to create a new privilege by its own authority.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

The points insisted upon by the defendants, are these:—

First. The alleged grievance arises from an act done by the House of Commons, in the exercise of a privilege claimed by them. The question of privilege, therefore, arises directly; and this Court cannot enquire into the existence of the privilege, but must give judgment for the defendants.

Secondly. Even if the question arose incidentally, still, on this record, the Court could not enquire into the existence of the privilege, but must give judgment for the defendants.

Thirdly. The privilege (assuming that the Court could enquire into its existence) does exist.

I. As to the first point. The question of privilege here arises directly. The record shews a general order for publication, made by the House of Commons, which would include the publication of this Reply. The case, therefore, is the same as if a particular order had been made on the occasion. There are various general orders made by the House, as, for instance, the sessional orders for arresting those who obstruct the avenues to the House: and if a person were taken into custody under one of these orders it would be the act of the Commons, as much as if a special order were made for the purpose.

The privilege of the House applies to two distinct matters: first, personal immunity, as the exemption from arrest claimed by members for themselves, and (until it was abolished by statute (a)) for their servants: Secondly, the powers exercised by the House collectively, such as those of summoning witnesses, calling for

(a) See stat. 10 G. 3. c. 50. Compare sect. 2 with stat. 12 & 13 W. 3. c. 3. s. 2; and stat. 11 G. 2. c. 24. s. 2.

the production of papers, committing to custody, and that (which is not now disputed) of printing for the use of members. The privilege here in question is of the latter kind. The power is claimed for the public benefit, but ranges within the law of privilege. [Lord Denman C. J. The word "privilege" is not used in this plea.] Nor, perhaps, did it occur in the pleadings in *Burdett v. Abbot* (a). And in the case of a commitment the return to a habeas corpus does not use the term "privilege," but sets out matter shewing that the act is done by the House in exercise of the powers belonging to it. The present case stands as if there had been a formal order for publishing the papers in question, with a preamble asserting the privilege, and the expediency of such publication.

The act, then, is an exercise of privilege; and it is within the general jurisdiction of the House, since they have a clear general right to print and publish their proceedings. The demurrer admits that this document was, published as a part of their proceedings: and it was, in fact, a part of them. A report, if adopted by the House, is clearly so. Had the inspectors of prisons been examined at the bar, their examination, if entered on the journals and in the votes, would have been a part of the proceedings. There might have been a debate in which this report and reply were read, and an order then made that they should be entered on the journals. Then they would clearly have been a part of the proceedings. And they are so here, the report having been laid before the House in pursuance of an act of parliament, and the reply by a vote, and the House having ordered both to be printed.

The question then is, whether an action lies against

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

(a) 14 East, 1.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

the defendants for publishing this reply under the authority of the House? The act is, in reality, a thing done in parliament; as when the House vote that a person shall be committed, and the Speaker issues his warrant, and the vote is carried into execution. Setting aside privilege, who would be legally responsible for the act, it being done in parliament? The defendants are the servants of the House, obeying its order; if they are liable, where is a line to be drawn? The Speaker, the members of the committee which superintended the publication, perhaps even the members of the House who voted for the publishing, would be likewise answerable.

But, where a question of privilege arises directly on the record, this Court cannot enquire whether the privilege exists or not. Wherever the enquiry would be — whether the House of Commons, as a house of parliament, had power to do a particular act, the question is one of privilege; considering privilege, not merely as matter of personal immunity, but as comprehending the powers belonging to a house of parliament collectively. Here the question of privilege is directly raised, and cannot, therefore, be enquired into by a court of common law. As to the cases of *Donne v. Walsh* (a), *Benyon v. Evelyn* (b), and *Barnardiston v. Soame* (c), cited for the plaintiff; in the first two the question of privilege did not arise directly, but incidentally; in the last no

(a) *Prynne's Register of Parliamentary Writs*, Part 4. p. 752., cited 1 *Hats. Prec.* 41. The Attorney-General made his references to the third edition of *Hatsell's Precedents* (1796), and that edition is cited throughout this report. There is, however, a fourth edition (1818), which does not always correspond in paging with the third. Vol. 1. contains, in addition to the former appendix, reports by committees of the House of Commons on the arrest of Lord *Cochrane* by the marshal of K. B. (see p. 237, note (b), post), and on the case of Sir *F. Burdett* in 1810, and the authorities bearing upon it.

(b) *Reports of Sir O. Bridgman's Judgements*, 324.

(c) 6 *How. St. Tr.* 1063. And see the references, p. 10, note (b), *antè*.
question

question of privilege arose, and the House was no party to the proceedings. No case can be cited in which a court of common law has acted where the point of privilege arose directly, except *Rex v. Williams* (a), which is admitted not to be an authority. The most frequent cases in which the privilege of the houses of parliament has come in question directly have been cases of habeas corpus on commitments by them; and there the courts of common law have disclaimed jurisdiction. So the question would arise directly if an action of trespass or false imprisonment were brought for such a commitment; and wherever it might be sought to overrule an act done by either house, and justified by its authority. The present is a case of that description. In *Burdett v. Abbot* (b), if the plaintiff had complained of the Speaker's warrant as a libel, the case would have been precisely similar. If the complaint appears on the record to be made against an act of one of the houses, so that the court is called upon to say whether the privilege alleged in justification belongs to the House or is usurped, the point of privilege arises directly, whether raised by the declaration or by any subsequent pleading. It would arise so, for example, if the sheriff were sued for an escape, and pleaded that the defendant was elected a member of the House of Commons and was discharged by their order. With a question of privilege raised incidentally, the court must deal as it best can; as if, in an action of debt, the defendant pleads that he is a member, and privileged while the House sits; there no act or adjudication of the House is vouched, but there is merely a claim by an individual to be exempt from answering in the action. In such a

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General,

(a) 13 How. St. Tr. 1370.

(b) 14 East, 1.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

case necessity may require that the existence of the privilege should be examined into; but the necessity which makes the rule points out its limit. Where an act of either House is complained of, no such necessity can exist. There an adjudication has been made on the very point, and by a court of exclusive jurisdiction; and such an adjudication is binding.

The privilege of parliament appears to be looked at on the other side in the same light as the exemption of a witness from arrest, or the privilege of an attorney to be sued in his own court; rights upon which, no doubt, the courts of common law have power to adjudicate. But the power of adjudicating upon parliamentary privilege stands on a very different footing. The object of allowing such privilege to the House of Commons was, that it might be independent of the Crown and of the House of Lords. For that purpose it is necessary that the House should be exclusively the judge of its own privilege.

The law of parliament differs from the common law, as do the laws administered in the equity, ecclesiastical and admiralty courts, with which laws the other courts do not profess to be conversant. It is not necessarily even a part of the law of *England*; for the parliament is not of *England* only, but likewise of *Scotland* and *Ireland*. This court, therefore, cannot take cognisance of it. If the court here could do so, a *Scotch*, or even a colonial court might adjudicate upon the law of parliament. In the latter case an appeal would lie to the privy council; so that the privileges of the House of Commons might come to be decided upon by the King and certain of his privy councillors. And not only might the courts of *Scotland* or the colonies pronounce upon the law of parliament, but hundred courts and borough courts,
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and all others throughout the country, of however low authority, might do so likewise.

The courts of law are subordinate to the houses of parliament; and that shews their incompetency to decide upon a question of parliamentary privilege directly arising. Originally, the Houses of Lords and Commons sat together. The courts of law, which at that time were established and had the same powers which they now enjoy, were clearly subordinate to the parliament. A writ of error lay from them to the parliament, and they were accustomed even to consult parliament before they decided points of difficulty and importance. But, according to the argument now urged, an act of the whole parliament might at that very time have been reviewed by a court of law. The houses of parliament were subsequently divided. If the courts of law could not, before that time, have enquired into the legality of a commitment, or the publication of a paper, by parliament, neither could they do so afterwards. When the Houses were divided, which Lord *Ellenborough* (a) supposes to have been done by statute, whatever was done by either in the exercise of its privileges was the act of the whole parliament. All such acts of either House are still supposed to be the act of the whole. Thus a writ of error to parliament is, properly, an appeal to the whole body, not to one house; and the Commons are supposed, in point of law, to form part of the Court of Appeal, and concur with the Lords in their decision. This subject is treated of in Lord *Hale's* "Jurisdiction of the Lords' House, or Parliament (b)," and Mr. *Hargrave's* preface to that work.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

(a) In *Burdett v. Abbot*, 14 East, 137.

(b) Chap. iii. and chap. xxii. See 4 Inst. 23. 5 Com. Dig. Parliament (L 1.).

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

The inconsistency which results from supposing that a court of common law can review the acts of either house of parliament may be thus illustrated. The House of Lords exercises an appellate jurisdiction in cases depending in this and the other Courts of *Westminster Hall*. Suppose this Court to decide that the House of Lords had acted illegally in voting a commitment: as, for example, if *Anthony* Earl of *Shaftesbury* (a), in 1677, instead of suing out a habeas corpus, had brought an action for the imprisonment, and a justification under the authority of the House of Lords had been pleaded and demurred to: upon writ of error, the decision of the Court would have come under the review of the House of Lords itself. The incongruity is avoided by holding that this Court, a subordinate tribunal, cannot take cognisance of a question which directly brings into dispute the authority of parliament. The House of Lords frequently direct the publication of proceedings on an impeachment; and judges have intimated an opinion that the publication of proceedings on a trial is not always justifiable. But would this Court take upon it to determine, in such a case, whether or not the House had authority to make the proceedings public?

There is no distinction, for the purpose of this argument, between the House of Lords and the House of Commons. They have co-ordinate authority. Sir *Robert Filmer*, indeed (whose opinions, and some similar ones, are combated by Sir *Robert Atkyns* in his argument in *Rex v. Williams* (a)), held the House of Commons to be a mere excrescence, and to have had, originally, no independent authority. And, at the present day, ob-

(a) See 6 *How. St. Tr.* 1269.

(b) 13 *How. St. Tr.* 1369. See p. 1400. et seq.

servations tending strongly to excite prejudice against the proceedings of that House have been published in the introduction, by Lord *Brougham*, to the report of his judgment in *Wellesley v. The Duke of Beaufort*; where it is even said that there is not "a single argument ever urged in favour of Privilege which would not serve as a pretence for allowing all the members of both Houses to rob and murder with impunity on the highway" (a). But the House of Commons virtually comprehend the whole commonalty of the realm; their acts are those of all the Commons of the United Kingdom. Lord *Holt* says, in *Ashby v. White* (b), "It is not to be doubted but that the Commons of *England* have a great and considerable right in the government, and a share in the legislative, without whom no law passes; but because of their vast numbers, this right is

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

(a) "Speeches of Henry Lord Brougham," 1838, vol. iv. p. 344. The Attorney-General also referred to the following passages:—

"The pretensions at different times set up by the Houses of parliament to certain privileges placing them above the law of the land, are the more familiarly known in consequence of their having of late been brought into discussion by a new and extravagant claim, asserted on behalf of the House of Commons, to publish libels through irresponsible agents." Vol. iv. p. 341. "The House of Commons did not perhaps deem the circumstance of the offender" (Mr. *Lechmere Charlton*) "being a member of the Court against which he had committed a contempt, any mitigation of his offence. At all events they left the Bar to protect its own privileges; and indeed there seems no conceivable reason why that body should not also have made common cause with the guilty party, so far at least as to inquire whether or not one of their members was rightfully imprisoned, and thus suspended from the exercise of his functions." ib. p. 345. "All rights are now utterly disregarded by the advocates of Privilege, excepting that of exposing their own short-sighted impolicy and thoughtless inconsistency. Nor would there be any safety for the people under their guidance, if unhappily their powers of doing mischief bore any proportion to their disregard of what is politic and just;" ib. p. 352.

(b) 2 *Ld. Ray*. 950. See the late edition of Lord *Holt's* judgment, referred to, p. 55. note (b), post.

not

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

not exerciseable by them in their proper persons; and therefore, by the constitution of *England*, it has been directed that it should be exercised by representatives, chosen by and out of themselves, who have the whole right of all the Commons of *England* vested in them." And in stat. 15 E. 2. (*Revocatio novarum ordinationum* (a)) it is enacted, that "the matters which are to be established for the estate of our Lord the King, and of his heirs, and for the estate of the realm and of the people, shall be treated, accorded, and established in parliaments, by our Lord the King, and by the assent of the prelates, earls, and barons, and the commonalty of the realm; according as it hath been heretofore accustomed." The Commons are the grand inquest of the nation. The House of Lords institute enquiries, but only in default of that duty being performed by the Commons. If there is corruption or oppression, the Commons are to accuse, the Lords to judge. The power of publishing is essential to the Commons, in the discharge of their inquisitorial functions.

(a) The statute recites the commission granted, in 3 Ed. 2., by the king to the prelates, earls, and barons, to choose certain persons of the prelates, earls, and barons, and of other lawful men whom they should deem sufficient to be called unto them, for "ordaining and establishing the estate of the household of our said lord the king, and of his realm;" under which commission ordinances were made, (5 Ed. 2.), by the Archbishop of *Canterbury* and the bishops, earls, and barons thereunto chosen: and that, upon examination in parliament (15 Ed. 2.), by the prelates, earls, and barons, and by the commonalty of his realm, the said ordinances were found prejudicial: the same are therefore annulled; and it is enacted, "That for ever hereafter, all manner of ordinances or provisions, made by the subjects of our lord the king or of his heirs, by any power or authority whatsoever, concerning the royal power of our lord the king or of his heirs, or against the estate of our said lord the king or of his heirs, or against the estate of the crown, shall be void and of no avail or force whatever; but the matters" &c. Then follows the passage in the text. The act is printed in the statutes of the realm, published by the Record Commission, 1810 (vol. 1. p. 189). See *Brady's History of England*, vol. iii. p. 146.

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The Commons have, in particular, the power of enquiring into the conduct of the courts of justice; and at the commencement of every session a grand committee of justice is appointed by that House (a), to receive complaints from the various tribunals within the jurisdiction of the House. The House itself is, according to all authorities, a court; whether a court of record or not, is immaterial, for the Court of Chancery is not so, yet it has, not the less, every necessary power for enforcing its judicial authority. In *Com. Dig. Parliament* (E. 14.) it is said (in treating of the House of Commons) that "A committee for justice may summon any judges, and examine them in person, upon complaint of any misdemeanor in their office." And accordingly, in 19 *Car. 2.*, *Keeling*, Chief Justice of the King's Bench, appeared in person before the House of Commons on complaint made against him of "misdemeanors, done in the said office, as fining of juries, &c. (b)." The acts there enquired into were not erroneous decisions, which might have been remedied by ordinary course of law, but irregular and oppressive proceedings, for which the only remedy was by the interference of the House. [Lord *Denman* C. J. In *Bushell's Case* (c) the jury who had been committed were discharged on habeas corpus by the Court of Common Pleas.] The Court of Common Pleas might discharge the parties in that case on habeas corpus, because they had been committed by an inferior court, the court of sessions of oyer and terminer at the *Old Bailey*. But an action, as *Hale* C. J. afterwards inti-

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSAARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

(a) See 4 *Inst.* 11.

(b) 1 *Sid.* 338. Reference is made in the margin to *Rex v. Wagstaffe* (*Bushell's Case*), 1 *Sid.* 272.

(c) 22 *Car. 2.* *Vaugh.* 135. *S. C. Frcem.* (K. B. & C. P.) 1. *Sir T Jones*, 13.

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1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

mated, would not have lain for the imprisonment (a). Sir Robert Atkyns says, in *Rex v. Williams* (b), "I myself have seen a Lord Chief Justice of this Court, while he was Lord Chief Justice, and a learned man, by leave from the House of Commons, pleading before that House for himself, and excusing what he had done in a trial that came before them in the west, whereof complaint was made to the House. And he did it with that great humility and reverence, and those of his own profession and others, were so far his advocates, as that the House desisted from any further prosecution (c)." In the year 1 *W. & M.* (1689), Sir Francis Pemberton and Sir Thomas Jones were questioned by the House of Commons (d) for their judgment given, against the privileges of the House, in the case of *Jay v. Topham* (e), and were committed to custody. And it cannot be doubted that such a power still exists. Even in our own times, the case of an *Irish* judge (g), against whom a complaint had been made, was entertained, and his petition thereon received, in the House of Lords, whose authority in such

(a) *Bushell's Case*, 26 *Car. 2.* 1 *Mod.* 119.

(b) 13 *How. St. Tr.* 1418.

(c) This apparently refers to the steps taken in the House of Commons in 1667, against *Keeling C. J.*, who appeared before the House at his own request; 6 *How. Sta. Tri.* 992, citing 4 *Hats. Pr.* 113. See also the proceedings against several of the Judges, in the House of Commons, in 1680; 8 *How. St. Tr.* 163, 193, 194. It does not appear that, on this latter occasion, any of the judges attended the House; for *North*, in his *Examen*, p. 567. (cited, 8 *How. St. Tr.* 168, note) says —

"It was much wondered, at the time, that, in all this noise about the Judges, none were sent for to the House; the cause was thought to be, that they were stout men, and would have justified all they had done, and that was not thought seasonable."

(d) 12 *How. St. Tr.* 822.

(e) See 14 *East*, 102. note (a).

(g) The Attorney-General was understood to allude to the case of Mr. Justice Fox, a Judge of the Common Pleas in *Ireland*. See his petition, 45 *Lords' Journ.* 662; and the resolution for postponing the proceedings for two months, p. 716. Also 7 *Parl. Deb.* 752, 788. A. D. 1806.

a case is, at any rate, not greater than that of the House of Commons.

But, according to the plaintiff, in a case like any of these, the Judges might again sit in inquisition upon the proceedings of the House of Commons: and not only the Judges of the superior courts, but those of the county court and other inferior tribunals. Yet even the Court of Queen's Bench cannot issue a mandamus or a prohibition to the House of Lords or House of Commons. There might indeed be a court superior to the legislature, like the Supreme Court in the United States of *America*, which is authorised to decide on the legality of acts of Congress, and to determine questions between the whole Union and a particular State, or between one State and another. But here no such court exists. And, as there is no appeal from the Supreme Court in *America* to Congress, the absurdity does not exist there which would arise in this country if the courts of law had the jurisdiction contended for, namely, that the legislative body is a court of appeal from that very tribunal which affects to control its decisions.

The administration of the law of parliament is referred by the constitution to the two houses of parliament exclusively, as other courts exclusively administer the revenue law, the canon law, the maritime law, and equity. And this peculiar jurisdiction is necessary from the nature of parliamentary privilege. That privilege was created in order that the Houses might perform their functions effectively and independently; it has existed always, and not by derivation from the Crown; it is as old as the prerogative, and as much part of the constitution. It could not have existed beneficially, if cognisable by inferior tribunals. Privilege is given to the House of Commons to be exercised against the Crown and the House of Lords:

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

Lords : unless the Commons were themselves the tribunal by which their privilege is to be judged, it would have been abolished long ago. The necessity for preserving it from interference by the courts of law is not to be estimated from the present improved state of those courts. The law of privilege was settled when Judges were the creatures of the Crown, and liable to be discarded if not obedient, and when the Kings themselves used to interfere in the administration of justice, which they did personally and as judges, in ancient times, and afterwards by letters to the judges, directing them how to act in particular cases, a practice several times checked by statute, as, in particular, by stat. 2 *Ed. 3. c. 8.*, and 18 *Ed. 3. stat. 4 (a)*. And, although the judges are now independent of the Crown, there may still be a proper constitutional jealousy lest, at some time, a desire of popularity (*b*), or of extending the jurisdiction of the courts, should lead them to decisions against wholesome and useful privilege, as mischievous as those formerly given in submission to the King's authority. But, during the struggles of the House of Commons against the Crown, as in the reigns of *Elizabeth*, *James I.*, and *Charles I.*, the privileges of the House would clearly not have survived if they had depended on the ruling of judges. And, at any period,

(a) See, on the subject of interference by the kings of *England* with judicial proceedings, a great number of authorities cited by Mr. *Amos* in a note to his edition of *Fortescue*, p. 23. note B. to chapter 8. Also Sir *F. Palgrave's Rise and Progress of the English Commonwealth*, vol. i. p. 278. Part I. c. 9.

(b) He cited here from vol. i. of Lord *Erskine's Speeches*, p. 379, 2d ed., the following passage of Lord *Mansfield's* judgment in the case of the Dean of *St. Asaph*. "The Judges are totally independent of the ministers that may happen to be, and of the King himself. Their temptation is rather to the popularity of the day. But I agree with the observation cited by Mr. *Cowper* from Mr. Justice *Foster*, 'that a popular judge is an odious and a pernicious character.'"

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in the case of a contest between the two Houses, if a question of privilege arose, and could be decided by a court of common law, the ultimate appeal would be to the House of Lords, who would thus become judges, in the last resort, of the privileges of the Commons. Thus, in the case of *Shirley v. Fagg* (a), and in that of *Regina v. Paty* (b), if the parties committed by the Commons had brought actions of trespass, and the court of common law had determined the question of privilege, the House of Lords, on appeal, would have been, in a manner, judges in their own cause. And there is no remedy against the abuse of such an authority, since the House of Lords cannot be dissolved.

The *lex parliamenti* is not known to the judges of the common law courts. They have no means of arriving judicially at any information on the subject of privilege. The judges, even of the superior courts, are not, in general, and cannot be presumed to have been, members of either house of parliament. The parliamentary reports, and even the journals, furnish little information on the subject, many privileges resting wholly in usage. It is said that all subjects of the realm are bound to take notice of parliamentary privilege; but that does not imply a judicial knowledge. All persons are bound to take notice of the general law of the land; but all are not competent to administer it. It was an observation of Speaker *Onslow* (c) "that common lawyers, accustomed to the forms and practice of the Courts of *Westminster Hall*, know little of parliamentary law, or of the forms of proceeding in parliament." If the Judges of the Courts in *Westminster Hall* are little

1839.

 STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

 Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.
(a) 6 *How. St. Tr.* 1121.(b) 2 *Ld. Ray.* 1105; *S. C.* 2 *Salk.* 503. Reports temp. *Holt*, 536.(c) Cited, 2 *Hals. Prec.* 75, note.

acquainted

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell
Attorney-
General.

acquainted with parliamentary privilege, still less can the judges of inferior courts be supposed to understand it.

Either the courts of common law must take the law of privilege as laid down by the houses of parliament, or the houses must accept it from them. In the latter case, the decision of a pie poudre court may bind the Lord Chancellor and the Speaker. And the judgments of the common law courts may not be uniform. There may be twenty actions against the Speaker for libel or false imprisonment, or as many indictments (for if privilege is no bar to a civil action it is clearly no answer to an indictment), and as many county courts, or courts of quarter session, may be of different opinions as to the law. By what rule, then, is parliament to be guided in its exercise of privilege?

The existence of privilege, therefore, necessarily requires that that privilege should be declared by the House to which it belongs. If it does not exist, of course no question arises as to the proper tribunal. If it does, it cannot be usefully exercised unless judged of by the houses themselves. And, even in the Introduction (a), already cited, to Lord *Brougham's* judgment in *Wellesley v. The Duke of Beaufort*, it is allowed that, "in order to be consistent," the champions of privilege "must maintain that the Houses of Parliament alone are the judges of their privileges. This right is worth nothing if it is confined to judging of the general and abstract question. They accordingly also maintain that they alone are the judges to decide whether, in any particular instance, those privileges have been broken."

It is objected that the carrying privilege to this

(a) *Lord Brougham's Speeches* (cited, p. 25, antè), vol. iv. p. 347.

extent gives each house of parliament a legislative power, independently of the Crown and of the other House. But the proposition contended for goes no further than to say that each House is a court of exclusive jurisdiction, as the ecclesiastical courts, the admiralty court, and the court of exchequer, are with respect to particular branches of the law. They have not power to make the law, but only an exclusive authority to declare it on particular subjects. It does not follow that they can extend their jurisdiction. It has been said that much of the law established in the common law courts is "judge-made;" and it may be so described: but the Judges exercise no legislative power: the law which they deliver is supposed to have always existed, and to be merely declared by them.

Arguments are likewise drawn from the liability of this privilege to abuse: but such a liability does not shew that the privilege has no existence. In every balanced government there must be powers so constituted as to check each other, powers which have their respective limits, but for the abuse of which there can be no remedy. In this country the Crown has, by its prerogative, the powers of declaring peace and war, of pardoning, and of summoning and dissolving parliament; and if these are abused the law furnishes no remedy. So the House of Lords have the power of judicature in the last resort; and for any decision they might give in abuse of that power there is no redress. The House of Commons has the absolute power of voting the public money, and might stop the supplies improperly. An attorney-general may enter a nolle prosequi on any prosecution, and might, if he chose to abuse that power, obstruct the course of justice. He may refuse his fiat for a writ of error; or

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

he may make an injurious use of the discretion vested in him as to filing criminal informations. But these powers do not the less exist. The three branches of the legislature have an unlimited power. They might make a statute for abolishing the House of Commons. The Septennial Act was a strong instance of their exercise of authority. They might pass an act for changing the religion of the country against the wish of the people. For such cases no redress is provided by the law; if they occur, revolution has begun, and the only remedy is resistance.

It may, however, be observed that the same argument from the possibility of abuse, which is urged against privilege as insisted upon by the House of Commons, applies equally to the power claimed for the common law courts, of determining how far privilege extends.

It is true that the power claimed by the Commons of declaring their own privilege has, in past times, been frequently abused. But, first, the constitution supposes that the House consists of independent and intelligent men, who will discharge their duty: and, secondly, there are many instances of conduct pursued by the Judges in past times, which shew what consequences would have ensued if the law of privilege had always rested in their hands. On points not involving privilege, it is sufficient to cite the cases (mentioned by Mr. St. John in his speech at a conference between the Houses in 1640 (a)) of *Wayland*, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, who was banished for taking bribes, temp. Ed. 1., and *Thorpe*, Chief Justice of the King's Bench, who was adjudged to be hanged for the same offence, temp.

(a) On the Case of Ship Money, 8 How. St. Tr. 1273. †

Ed. 3.: the decision of a great majority of the Judges in favour of the claim of ship-money (*a*); and the case of *Sir Thomas Darnel* and others (*b*), where the Judges of this Court held that a person committed by order of the King in council was not to be discharged on habeas corpus.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

Then, as to decisions of the Judges on questions of privilege. In 11 *Ric. 2.* (1387) *Tresilian*, Chief Justice of the King's Bench, and *Belknap*, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, with other judges, *Belknap's* associates, were required by the King to answer certain questions; and, among other answers (*c*), they stated that the parties who procured the passing of a statute then lately enacted (which they held derogatory to the King's royalty) "were to be punished with death, except the King would pardon them;" and they gave the same opinion as to those who moved the King to consent to that statute. Also, on being asked whether, if, on parliament being assembled, the King shall have limited certain articles upon which the Lords and Commons ought to proceed, and they will not proceed thereon until he shall have answered them on certain articles proposed by them, the King in such case ought not to have the governance of the parliament, &c.; they replied, "That the King in that behalf has the governance, and may appoint what shall be first handled, and so gradually what next in all matters to be treated of in parliament even to the end of the parliament: and if any act contrary to the King's pleasure made known therein, they are to be punished as traitors." And, being asked whether the Lords and Commons can,

(a) *Rez v. Hampden*, 3 *How. St. Tr.* 825.

(b) 3 *How. St. Tr.* 1.

(c) The Attorney-General read the questions and answers more at length, from 1 *Parl. Hist.* 194, 195.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

without the King's will, impeach in parliament any of the King's judges or officers for any of their offences, they answered, "That they cannot, and if any one should do so, he is to be punished as a traitor." In the *Case of Stroud, Long, Selden*, and other members of the House of Commons, in 1629, 5 *Car.* 1., the King caused questions to be propounded to the Judges as to the liability of members for offences against the King or council "not in a parliament way;" and they answered that a member so offending might be punished for it after the parliament ended, if not punished in parliament; "for the parliament shall not give privilege to any 'contra morem parliamentarium,' to exceed the bounds and limits of his place and duty. And all agreed, that regularly he cannot be compelled out of parliament to answer things done in parliament in a parliamentary course; but it is otherwise where things are done exorbitantly, for those are not the acts of a court." And, in answer to the next question, they decided that a particular course of conduct, therein pointed out, would be "punishable out of parliament, as an offence exorbitant committed in parliament, beyond the office, and besides the duty of a parliament man (a)." *Stroud* and the other members were afterwards committed to custody for acts done by them in parliament, and, on return to writs of habeas corpus, it appeared that the commitments were by warrants of the Privy Council. When the Court of King's Bench was ready to deliver judgment on the returns, the King removed the pri-

(a) 3 *How. St. Tr.* 237, 238. The Attorney-General also referred to the account of this conference in *Nelson's Collections*, vol. ii. p. 374, 375, cited, 3 *How. St. Tr.* 238. note. The proceedings referred to were those taken in parliament on *March 2d*, 1629, when the Speaker was detained in the chair while certain votes were passed, after the King had ordered an adjournment.

soners, from the several prisons in which they were confined, to the *Tower*, and wrote letters to the Judges stating his pleasure that none of the parties should come before the Court "until we have cause given us to believe they will make a better demonstration of their modesty and civility, both towards us and your Lordships, than at their last appearance they did." Accordingly no judgment was given; and the prisoners remained in custody during the long vacation. In that vacation the King summoned two of the Judges to *Hampton*, and conferred with them upon the case. In *Michaelmas* term the parties were brought up, and the Court consented that they should be bailed, but required sureties also for their good behaviour. To the latter proposition they objected, stating, among other reasons, that "we cannot assent to it without great offence to the parliament, where these matters which are surmised by return were acted." The Court answered that they had no knowledge, from the return to the habeas corpus, of the matters having been transacted in parliament. But *Hyde C. J.* said: "If now you refuse to find sureties for the good behaviour, and be for that cause remanded, perhaps we afterwards will not grant a habeas corpus for you, inasmuch as we are made acquainted with the cause of your imprisonment." And the prisoners, not finding sureties for good behaviour, were remanded. In 1621, the House of Commons having entered upon their journals a protestation "that the liberties, franchises, privileges and jurisdictions of parliament are the ancient and undoubted birthright and inheritance of the subjects of *England*," *James I.* sent for the journals, and, in council, erased the protestation (*a*). This is stated

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANMARR.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

(a) See 1 *Parl. Hist.* pp. 1361-3.

1889.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

by the minutes of council to have taken place in the presence of the Judges, and was, no doubt, done at their suggestion. Another instance of the manner in which the Judges have treated constitutional rights is the resolution of eleven out of the twelve in favour of the dispensing power in Sir *Edward Hales's* case, 1686, 2 *Ja.* 2. (a). Lord *Clarendon*, speaking of the transactions in the case of ship-money, and other abuses which took place about the same period, complains that the people saw, in the courts, "reason of state urged as elements of law, judges as sharp-sighted as secretaries of state, and in the mysteries of state; judgment of law grounded upon matter of fact, of which there was neither inquiry nor proof;" and he adds, "the damage and mischief cannot be expressed, that the crown and state sustained by the deserved reproach and infamy that attended the judges, by being made use of in this and like acts of power." *Clar. Hist. Reb.* vol. i. pp. 123-4. (b).

These examples may be set off against the instances which have been cited of abuses of privilege by the House of Commons, and shew that questions of privilege could not have been left in the hands of the Judges with safety to the constitution.

But the true remedy for abuses of this kind is in the constitution itself. If an individual is aggrieved by the exercise of privilege, he may be heard, and his grievance redressed, on petition to the House. There may be a revision of what has been done by either House. There may be a conference between the two. The House of Commons, if it persist in an excess of authority, may be dissolved. Thus the difficulty occa-

(a) 11 *How. St. Tr.* 1198, 1199.

(b) *Ed.* 1826. 8vo.

sioned in *Mr. Wilkes's* case, by the resolution that a member expelled could not be re-elected, was cured by a dissolution, and the election of a new House of Commons which rescinded the vote. The interference of courts of law to correct abuses of privilege is unnecessary, and, except *Sir W. Williams's Case (a)*, there is no instance in which the authority of the Courts has been enforced against an alleged abuse of this kind. Excesses which may have occurred in the assertion of privilege have, from time to time, been corrected by, or with the concurrence of, the Houses themselves. The instances of abuse relied upon on the other side come down to no later a period than 1760-1. The disposition of the Houses to abate any grievance arising from privilege is shewn by the statutes passed to facilitate actions against members. Before stat. 2 *Ja.* 1. c. 13. it had been considered that, if a person arrested in execution were discharged by reason of parliamentary privilege, the plaintiff was for ever barred from suing out a new writ of execution in the same case. By that statute, sect. 2, power was given to sue out a new execution when the privilege of the session should cease. But it may be observed that sect. 3. recognises the authority of the Houses to enforce their own privileges; for it enacts that nothing in that statute contained shall extend "to the diminishing of any punishment to be hereafter by censure in parliament inflicted upon any person which hereafter shall make or procure to be made any such arrest as is aforesaid." Again, the remedies of suitors against members and their servants were still further facilitated by stats. 12 & 13 *W. 3.* c. 3., 11 *G. 2.* c. 24., and 10 *G. 3.*

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

(a) 13 *How. St. Tr.* 1369.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

c. 50. The enactments of stat. 4 G. 3. c. 33., and subsequent acts, for bringing members of parliament within the provisions of the bankrupt laws, are another instance in which the Houses have divested themselves of privilege for the general advantage. In the two recent cases of Mr. *Long Wellesley* (a) and Mr. *Lechmere Charlton* (b), the House of Commons has rejected the claim of its own members, imprisoned for contempt of the Court of Chancery, to be discharged by reason of privilege.

It is asked why the courts of common law may not judge of parliamentary privilege, as well as of prerogative. But what is done by an officer of the Crown under the prerogative is done at common law. There is no peculiar tribunal to decide what belongs to the prerogative. But privilege of parliament depends upon a law *sui generis*, and administered by a court having peculiar jurisdiction.

It is also asked what would be the remedy if either House of Parliament were to do something very outrageous, as to issue an injunction against proceeding in an ejectment; or to order the Speaker to execute a person as a criminal. The answer is, that it is not decent to put such cases. It might as well be asked what remedy could be taken if the Sovereign were personally to commit a crime. In the *Case of Monopolies* (c), *Finch*, Solicitor-General, (afterwards Lord *Nottingham*) says, in reply to a similar argument: "I take it, the possibility of the abuse of power, is no objection against that power. For by this argument, though the King has a power and prerogative by law to restrain subjects

(a) *Wellesley v. The Duke of Beaufort*, 2 Russ. & Mylne, 639.

(b) *In the matter of the Ludlow Charities*, 2 Mylne & Craig, 316.

(c) 10 How. St. Tr. 407.

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from going beyond the sea, by a *Ne exeat regnum*, no, say they, he cannot; for then he may restrain all his subjects from going out of the kingdom, and so imprison and hinder every one from going out of the nation." — "So that this way of arguing does strike at all power, and I need give no other reason for it, for there can be no power at all, which is not accompanied with some trust; and there is no trust, but it possibly (morally speaking) may be broken." The answer to such objections is also well stated in a passage of *Considerations on the Law of Forfeiture for High Treason* (by *Charles Yorke*) (a); where it is observed that

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

(a) Page 116. 3d ed. *London* 1748.

The whole passage, which the Attorney-General read, is as follows: — After noticing the supposition that the King might summon the Lords to pass laws without the Commons, the author says, "Though the law will not suppose the possibility of the wrong, since it cannot mark out or assist the remedy; yet every member of that representative body might exclaim in the words of *Crassus* the *Roman* orator, when he opposed the encroachments of a tyrannical consul on the authority of the senate; 'Ille non consul est, cui ipse senator non sum:' he is no king, to whom we are not a house of parliament. On the other hand, should the representative of the Commons, like that of *Denmark*, surrender the rights and liberties of the people into the hands of the king, and the king, instead of dissolving the parliament, should accept the surrender, and attempt to maintain it, contrary to the laws, and to the oath of the crown; or should the two Houses take the power of the militia, the nomination of privy councillors, and the negative in passing laws out of the crown; these would be cases tending to dissolution: That is, they are cases which the law will not put, being incapable of distrusting those whom it has invested with the supreme power, or its own perpetual duration; and they are out of the reach of laws and stated remedies, because they render the exercise of them precarious and impracticable. This observation may be applied to every similar case, which can be formed in imagination, relative to the several estates; with this difference, that it holds strongest as to the king, in whom both the common and statute laws have reposed the whole executive power: Nor could the least branch of it be lodged in the two Houses, for the purpose of providing a judicial remedy against him, unless the constitution had erected *imperium in imperio*, and were inconsistent and destructive of itself. Should it then be asked, What! has the law provided no remedy in respect of the king? and

is

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

the law will not put such cases, and that they are out of the reach of laws and stated remedies. Where they occur, they tend to a dissolution of society, and to a condition of things for which the only cure is resistance. Wherever there is a paramount power, there is the same possibility of abuse: and paramount power must be lodged somewhere. In a limited monarchy it is distributed through various departments of the state; and the law supposes that power, so created for the public good, will be constitutionally and beneficially exercised. As to the order which it is said the House of Commons might make to put a man to death, such an order would not be within their general jurisdiction. The order now in question is so.

It appearing, therefore, on this record, that the action is brought for a thing authorised by order of the House of Commons, and to reverse that order, the question of privilege arises directly, and this Court has no jurisdiction. It has only to see that the act was ordered by the House in exercise of the privilege which they claim, and to give judgment for the defendants.

II. The House of Commons has passed a resolution (which is pleaded, and admitted by the demurrer), "that the power of publishing such of its reports, votes, and proceedings as it shall deem necessary or conducive to the public interests, is an essential incident to the con-

is the political capacity thus to furnish an exemption to him in his natural, from being called to account? the law will make no answer, but History will give one. When the king invaded the fundamental constitution of the realm, the convention of estates declared an abdication, and the throne vacant. Indeed the political character, or the king considered as an estate, still subsisted in notion and judgment of law; the right of the people to be governed by a limited monarch, according to the ancient exercise and distribution of powers between the three estates, remained as much as ever: but the exercise of the government was suspended, which made it a case tending to dissolution."

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stitutional functions of parliament, more especially to the Commons' House of Parliament as the representative portion of it." Then, supposing that the question of privilege arose here not directly but incidentally, this Court would be bound by the resolution set out on the record. And, if the law be as declared, this action cannot be maintained, the order being made in exercise of a legitimate authority. The law is here laid down by a court of original jurisdiction: the allegation of its having been so declared is neither traversed nor qualified; it is not suggested that either House of Parliament has ever decided otherwise. The Court cannot say *a priori* that no such privilege can be enjoyed; and, if not, how can they find out, on the argument of a demurrer, whether the House of Commons has enjoyed this privilege or not? Can the Court, on demurrer, look into the journals, the debates, and the votes, to ascertain whether, in point of fact, the power has been exercised? If judicial determinations are sought for, they cannot inform the Court what the privileges of Parliament are, because many of the most essential have never been the subject of judicial determination.

The Court has here a declaration of the House of Commons, not upon a matter of general law, of which the Court itself is a proper judge, but upon parliamentary privilege. That declaration is evidence of the law, which the Court is bound to receive as authority. So the resolutions of the Judges (such as occur frequently in Lord *Coke's* reports) are evidence of the general law of *England*; and judicial notice is taken of a custom of trade which has been found by a special jury, or a custom of *London* certified by the Recorder. The adjudication of the House of Commons on a point of parliamentary

law

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANBARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

law ought not to have less weight than the adjudication of an ecclesiastical or admiralty court on a question of canon or maritime law. The question of privilege comes before this Court like a question of foreign law; and, where it becomes necessary to decide incidentally a point of foreign law, or law belonging to another tribunal, the rule always is, to follow the law of the Court of original jurisdiction.

The argument for the defendants is therefore greatly strengthened by the resolution of *May* 31st. But, independently of that resolution, it would be sufficient to shew that the act complained of was done by the authority and order of the House of Commons in the exercise of their privileges.

That the law of parliament is peculiar, and distinct from the common law of *England*, appears from many authorities.

On the impeachment brought in 1388 (11 *Ric.* 2.), against the Archbishop of *York*, *Tresilian* and others, “the justices, serjeants, and other sages of the law, both of the realm and of the civil law, were charged by the King to give their faithful advice to the Lords of parliament how they ought to proceed in the said appeal. Who answered, ‘that they well understood the tenor of the said appeal; and affirmed, that it was not made nor brought according as the one law or other required.’ Upon which, the said Lords of parliament having taken deliberation and advice, it was by the assent of the King, with their common accord declared, ‘that in so high a crime as is laid in this appeal, and which touches the person of the King, and the estates of this realm, and is perpetrated by persons who are peers thereof, together with others, the cause cannot be tried elsewhere

where, but in parliament, nor by any other law, or court, except that of parliament; and that it belongs to the lords of parliament and to their free choice and liberty, by ancient custom of parliament, to be judges in such cases, and to judge of them by the assent of the King (a).’”

There is a statutable allowance of privilege in 11 *Ric. 2.*, not printed in the statute-book, but appearing on the parliament rolls, and evidently an act of parliament (b), in these terms:—“In this parliament, all the Lords, as well spiritual as temporal then present claimed, as their liberty and franchise, that the great matters moved in this parliament, or to be moved in other parliaments in time to come, touching peers of the land, should be agitated (*demesnez*), judged and discussed by the course of parliament, and not by the civil nor by the common law of the land used in other lower courts (*plus bas courtes*) of the kingdom: which claim, liberty, and franchise the King readily (*benignement*) allowed and granted (*ottroia*) to them in full parliament.” This is confined in terms to the House of Lords; but has always been considered as extending to matters transacted in or by authority of either House.

The Judges have, in several instances, objected to deciding questions of privilege. Lord *Coke* (c) says:—“Note, the privilege, order, or custom of parliament, either of the Upper House, or of the House of Commons, belongs to the determination or decision only of the Court of Parliament.” And he then states the case of the Earls of *Arundel* and *Devonshire* (c) (27 *H. 6.*), which was a controversy between them in the House of

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

(a) 1 *Parl. Hist.* 207, 208.

(b) 3 *Rot. Parl.* 244. Cited in *Burdett v. Abbot*, 14 *East*, 22.

(c) 13 *Rep.* 63.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

Lords "for their seats, places, and pre-eminences of the same." The King referred it to the Judges to examine the title; and they reported "that this matter, (viz. of honour and precedence between the two Earls, Lords of parliament,) was a matter of parliament, and belongs to the King's highness, and the lords spiritual and temporal in parliament, by them to be decided and determined." Upon which Sir *Robert Atkyns* observes, in his argument for Sir *W. Williams* (a): "One would think this were a strange answer of the judges, to deny their advice; were they not assistants to the Lords in matters of law? The true reason of their declining to give their advice, is, it was a case above them, and not to be determined by the ordinary rules of law, and therefore out of their element. 'Quæ supra nos, nihil ad nos.' Therefore their answer was, That it was a matter of parliament, and belonged to the King and Lords, but not to the judges."

Another instance is found in *Thorp's Case* (b). The House of Commons (in 31 & 32 Hen. 6., 1454) represented to the King and Lords in parliament, that *Thomas Thorp*, their Speaker, was imprisoned, and they prayed his discharge according to the privileges of the House. *Richard Duke of York* informed the House that *Thorp* was taken in execution at his suit, in an action of trespass, and prayed that he might not be discharged. The Lords "opened and declared to the justices the premises, and asked of them whether the said *Thomas* ought to be delivered from prison, by force and virtue of the privilege of parliament or no." The Judges, after deliberation, answered and said: "That they

(a) 13 How. St. Tr. 1427.

(b) 13 Rep. 63. More fully in 1 Hats. Prec. 28. from 5 Rot. Parl. 239.

ought not to answer to that question, for it hath not been used aforetime, that the justices should in anywise determine the privilege of this High Court of Parliament; for it is so high and mighty in his nature, that it may make law, and that that is law it may make no law; and the determination and knowledge of that privilege, belongeth to the Lords of the parliament, and not to the justices." It may be contended that the Judges merely refused to adjudicate; but they were not asked to decide; they were merely requested to give an opinion, and declined doing so, as the Judges have in later times on questions of equity. This was the interpretation given to their conduct by Lord *Ellenborough* in *Burdett v. Abbot* (a). His Lordship says that the question was not put to them as to persons who should adjudge, "but as advisers to the Lords on the law. They say in effect, it is not a proper subject for us to enter into; it properly belongs to yourselves; and therefore it is not for us to advise you upon it."

In the *Case of George Ferrers* (b) the King (*Henry VIII.*) in the presence of the Lord Chancellor and Judges, the Speaker, "and other the gravest persons of the nether House," thus recognised the superiority of the law of parliament over that of the other courts. "We be informed by our judges, that we at no time stand so highly in our estate royal, as in the time of parliament; wherein we as head, and you as members, are conjoined and knit together into one body politic, so as whatsoever offence or injury (during that time), is offered to the meanest member of the House, is to be judged as done against our person and the whole court of parliament; which

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

(a) 14 *East*, 29.

(b) 1 *Hats*. 56, 57., citing *Holinshed's Chronicle*.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

prerogative of the Court is so great (as our learned counsel informeth us) as all acts and processes coming out of any other inferior courts, must for the time cease and give place to the highest." And "Sir Edward Montagu, then Lord Chief Justice, very gravely declared his opinion, confirming by divers reasons all that the King had said, which was assented unto by all the residue, none speaking to the contrary."

In *Coke's Fourth Institute*, 15., it is said : "And as (a) every court of justice hath laws and customs for its direction, some by the common law, some by the civil and canon law, some by peculiar laws and customs, &c. So the High Court of Parliament *suis propriis legibus et consuetudinibus subsistit*. It is *lex et consuetudo parliamenti*, that all weighty matters in any parliament moved concerning the peers of the realm, or Commons in parliament assembled, ought to be determined, adjudged, and discussed by the course of the parliament, and not by the civil law, nor yet by the common laws of this realm used in more inferior courts ; which was so declared to be *secundum legem et consuetudinem parliamenti*, concerning the peers of the realm, by the King and all the lords spiritual and temporal ; and the like *pari ratione* is for the Commons for any thing moved or done in the House of Commons : and the rather, for that by another law and custom of parliament, the King cannot take notice of any thing said or done in the House of Commons, but by the report of the House of Commons : and every member of the parliament hath a judicial place, and can be no witness. And this is the reason that judges ought not to give any opinion of a

(a) Opposite these words in the margin is "*Lex et consuetudo parliamenti*. Ista lex ab omnibus est querenda, a multis ignorata, a paucis cognita." The same words are in *Co. Litt.* 11. b.

matter of parliament, because it is not to be decided by the common laws, but *secundum legem et consuetudinem parliamenti*: and so the Judges in divers parliaments have confessed. And some hold, that every offence committed in any court punishable by that court, must be punished (proceeding criminally) in the same court, or in some higher, and not in any inferior court, and the Court of Parliament hath no higher."

In 3 *Hawk. P. C.* p. 219, book 2. c. 15. s. 73. (a), it is said, "There can be no doubt but that the highest regard is to be paid to all the proceedings of either of those houses" (of parliament), "and that wherever the contrary does not plainly and expressly appear, it shall be presumed that they act within their jurisdiction, and agreeably to the usages of parliament, and the rules of law and justice."

Sir William Blackstone, in 1 *Comm.* 164., after stating the objection made by the Judges when called upon to answer in *Thorp's Case* (b), says: "Privilege of parliament was principally established, in order to protect its members not only from being molested by their fellow subjects, but also more especially from being oppressed by the power of the Crown. If, therefore, all the privileges of parliament were once to be set down and ascertained, and no privilege to be allowed but what was so defined and determined, it were easy for the executive power to devise some new case, not within the line of privilege, and under pretence thereof to harass any refractory member and violate the freedom of parliament. The dignity and independence of the two Houses are therefore in great measure preserved by keeping their privileges indefinite."

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

(a) *Leach's* ed. 1795.(b) 1 *Hats. Prec.* 28. *S. C.* 13 *Rep.* 63.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

The dicta of judges on this subject concur with the opinions of text writers. *De Grey* C. J. says, in *Brass Crosby's Case* (a): "This Court cannot take cognizance of a commitment by the House of Commons, because it cannot judge by the same law; for the law by which the Commons judge of their privileges is unknown to us." "The counsel at the bar have not cited one case where any court of this Hall ever determined a matter of privilege which did not come incidentally before them" (b). "Courts of justice have no cognizance of the acts of the Houses of Parliament, because they belong *ad aliud examen*" (c). Acts of either House cannot, according to this opinion, be adjudged upon by the common law courts, even incidentally. And *Blackstone* J. there, referring to *Regina v. Paty* (d), where *Holt* C. J. differed from the rest of the Judges, says "we must be governed by the eleven, and not by the single one."

In *Regina v. Paty* (e) *Powys* J. said, "The House of Commons is a great Court, and all things done by them are to be intended to have been rite acts." The House of Commons are a great branch of the constitution, and are chosen by ourselves, and are our trustees; and it cannot be supposed, nor ought to be presumed, that they will exceed their bounds, or do anything amiss." And, he said, "The reason why there were no precedents of that kind" (of enquiry by this Court into the proceedings of the House) was, "that it would be unreasonable to put the Judges upon determining the privileges of the House of Commons, of which privileges they have no account, nor any footsteps in their books:

(a) 3 *Wils.* 199.

(b) P. 202.

(c) P. 203.

(d) 2 *Ld. Ray.* 1105.(e) 2 *Ld. Ray.* 1108, 1109.

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that the House of Commons have the records of them, and, as occasion requires, search them to find them : that the Judges cannot resort to those records, and, therefore, it is indeed impossible for them to judge matters of privilege." And *Powell J.* said (a), "The Commons have also a power of judicature ; and so is 4 *Inst.* 23. ; but that is not by the common law, but by the law of parliament, to determine their own privileges." "He said, this Court might judge of privilege, but not contrary to the judgment of the House of Commons." "The Court of parliament," he said (b), "was a superior Court to this Court ; and though the King's Bench have a power to prevent excesses of jurisdiction in courts, yet they cannot prevent such excesses in parliament, because that is a superior court to them, and a prohibition was never moved for to the parliament."

Lord Camden, in *Entick v. Carrington* (c), after stating that the only instance of a power to commit without a power to examine upon oath is in the practice of the House of Commons, says, "But this instance is no precedent for other cases. The rights of that assembly are original and self created ; they are paramount to our jurisdiction, and above the reach of injunction, prohibition, or error."

In *Com. Dig. Parliament* (G 1.), it is laid down, that "The parliament *suis propriis legibus et consuetudinibus subsistit.*" And that "All matters moved, concerning the peers or commons in parliament, ought to be determined according to the usage and customs of parliament, and not by the law of any inferior court." And the same doctrine is laid down in other abridgments.

(a) 2 *Ld. Ray.* 1110.

(b) P. 1111.

(c) 19 *How. St. Tr.* 1047.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

The principles thus recognized by judges and writers on the law have been acted upon in many cases. And, first, those instances may be mentioned in which writs of habeas corpus have been sued out upon commitments by the Houses of Parliament. In connection with this class of cases, that of Sir *Thomas Darnel* and others (*a*), 3 *Car.* 1. (1627), should be noticed. To writs of habeas corpus sued out by them, returns were made, stating that they were committed by warrant of privy council; and the Court of King's Bench held that, "if a man be committed by the commandment of the King, he is not to be delivered by a habeas corpus in this Court, for we know not the cause of the commitment." And *Hyde* C. J. said: "Mr. Attorney hath told you that the King hath done it, and we trust him in great matters, and he is bound by law, and he bids us proceed by law, as we are sworn to do, and so is the King; and we make no doubt but the King, if you seek to him, he knowing the cause why you are imprisoned, he will have mercy; but we leave that. If in justice we ought to deliver you, we would do it; but upon these grounds, and these records, and the precedents and resolutions, we cannot deliver you, but you must be remanded." This decision was strongly censured in the House of Commons in the ensuing parliament; and an article was inserted in the Petition of right (1628) to prevent such imprisonment and detention in future. But, although this exercise of power by the Crown was so called in question and restrained, the rule has remained unaltered that the Houses of parliament may by their own authority commit, and that such commitments are not questionable by the courts of law.

(a) 3 *How. St. Tr.* 1.

Two cases of habeas corpus on commitments by the House of Commons occurred in the time of the Commonwealth. Captain *Streater* (a) was committed by the Speaker's warrant, until he should be delivered by order of parliament. On return to a habeas corpus, and argument thereon, the Court of King's Bench ordered him to be remanded; and it was said (b) (apparently by *Rolle* C. J.), "Mr. *Streater*, one must be above another, and the inferior must submit to the superior; and in all justice, an inferior court cannot controul what the parliament does. If the parliament should do one thing, and we do the contrary here, things would run round. We must submit to the legislative power: for if we should free you, and they commit you again; why here would be no end: and there must be an end in all things." And, as to the objection that no cause was expressed by the return, the same Judge said: "It is true, here there is not. We are judges of the law, and we may call inferior courts to an account why they do imprison this or that man against the known laws of the land; and they must shew cause to any man. In this case, if the cause should come before us, we cannot examine it, whether it be true or unjust: they have the legislative power" (c).

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(a) Case of Captain *Streater*, 5 *How. St. Tr.* 366. (b) Page 386.

(c) The legislative power appears to have been mainly relied upon by the Court in this argument. *Nicholls* J. said, "You did distinguish between an order and an act of parliament. Why their power is a law, and we cannot dispute any such thing:" p. 387. And the Judge cited in the text said: "The second thing that hath been objected against the return was by Mr. *Freeman*: he says, the parliament hath not power to alter the laws. Why, they have the legislative power, and may alter and order in such sort as they please:" p. 386. And, on the prisoner's citing the case of *Darnel* and others, (3 *How. Sta. Tri.* 1.), the same judge said,

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

After the dissolution of the parliament, another habeas corpus was sued out, and the prisoner admitted to bail (a).

In Sir *Robert Pye's Case*, cited in 5 *How. St. Tr.* (b), from *Ludlow's Memoirs*, it is mentioned, as a proof of the low state to which the parliament had fallen before the Restoration, that when Sir *R. Pye*, who had been committed by their order, was brought before the Court of King's Bench on habeas corpus, and Judge *Newdigate* asked the Counsel for the Commonwealth why it should not be granted, they answered that they had nothing to say against it; whereupon the Judge, "ashamed to see them so unfaithful to their trust," replied, that "Sir *Robert Pye* being committed by an order of the parliament, an inferior court could not discharge him."

In more settled times, after the Restoration, Lord *Shaftesbury* (c) was committed to the *Tower* by the House of Lords, on a warrant specifying no cause but "high contempts committed against this House." On argument upon return to a habeas corpus, he was remanded, and Sir *T. Jones J.*, after allowing that such a commitment by an ordinary court of justice would have been bad, said (d), "The cause is different when it comes before this High Court." "The course of all courts ought to be considered," "and it has not been affirmed, that the usage of the House of Lords has used to express

"The king was plaintiff against them, and he was but a feoffee in trust: the Parliament is plaintiff against you, and they are a legislative power." p. 388.

(a) *The Protector and Captain Streeter*, *Style*, 415. Cited, 5 *How. St. Tr.* 405.

(b) 5 *How. St. Tr.* 948. *Ludlow*, vol. 2. p. 842. ed. 1698.

(c) 6 *How. St. Tr.* 1269. *S. C. 1 Mod.* 144. 3 *Keb.* 792.

(d) 6 *How. St. Tr.* 1296.

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the matter more particularly on commitment for contempts, and therefore I shall take it to be according to the course of parliament. 4 *Inst.* 50. It is said that the Judges are assistants to the Lords, to inform them of common law; but they ought not to judge of any law, custom, or usage of parliament." And *Rainsford J.* said, "This Court has no jurisdiction of the cause, and therefore the form of the return is not considerable."

The next case is *Regina v. Paty*, reported in *Lord Raymond (a)*. The original judgment of *Holt C. J.* in that case has lately been published from a manuscript copy (*b*); but, though a valuable document, it does not materially vary from the reports before published. That case, no doubt, is an extreme one, and tries the principle upon which such decisions have gone. *Paty* had been committed by the Speaker's warrant, for having (contrary to the declaration, and in contempt, of the House of Commons) brought an action against the late constables of *Aylesbury* for disallowing his vote in the election of members to parliament. If there was any case in which a court of law might justifiably have enquired into a commitment by the House of Commons, it would have been this, since an action brought under the same circumstances had been held maintainable by the House of Lords in *Ashby v. White (c)*. But eleven of the twelve Judges agreed that the Court of Queen's Bench had no jurisdiction in the case of a parliamentary commitment, and could not discharge the prisoners. *Gould J.* said (*d*), "If this had been a return of a

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

(a) 2 *Ld. Ray.* 1105. *S. C.* 14 *How. St. Tr.* 849.

(b) "The judgements delivered by the Lord Chief Justice *Holt* in the case of *Ashby v. White and Others*, and in the case of *John Paty and Others*. Printed from original MSS. With an introduction." *London*, 1837.

(c) 2 *Ld. Ray.* 938. *S. C.* 14 *How. St. Tr.* 695. (d) Page 1106.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

commitment by an inferior court, it had been naught, because it did not set out a sufficient cause of commitment: but this return being of a commitment by the House of Commons, which is superior to this Court, it is not reversible for form. And that answers the objections to the form of the commitment. We cannot judge of the privileges of the House of Commons, but they are to debate them among themselves. He said, it was objected, that by *Mag. Chart.* c. 29. no man ought to be taken or imprisoned but by the law of the land: but that the answer to this was, that there were several laws in this kingdom, among which was the *lex parliamenti*; which law, as it is said in the 4 *Inst.* 15. "*ab omnibus est querenda, a multis ignorata, a paucis cognita*;" and that it was uncertain that those words in the statute of *Mag. Chart.* were to be restrained to the common law. He said, the parliament had laws and customs peculiar to itself, and that this was declared to be *secundum legem parliamenti*; and that the Judges ought not to give any answers to questions proposed to them about matters of privilege, because the privileges of parliament are not to be determined by the common law." He then commented on the cases of Lord *Shaftesbury* (a), and Sir *John Elliot* (b), and concluded "that no habeas corpus would lie." *Powys J.* (whose judgment has been partly cited already (c)) said (d): "Shall the Commons hinder a man from proceeding at law? Now in general speaking, that is the only use of privilege; and the meaning of privilege is, that it is a privilege against the course of law: such is the privilege of members against suits of law to be brought

(a) 6 *How. St. Tr.* 1269. S. C. 1 *Mod.* 144. (b) 3 *How. St. Tr.* 223.

(c) Page 50. *antè*.

(d) 2 *Ld. Ray.* 1108.

against

against them." And *Powell J.* (whose judgment also has been before cited (a)) said (b) that "this Court might judge of privilege, but not contrary to the judgment of the House of Commons." "If they" (the Court of Queen's Bench) "should discharge those persons, that are committed by the House of Commons for a breach of privilege, this would be to take upon themselves directly to judge of the privileges of parliament. This want of jurisdiction in the Court cures all the faults in the commitment." The greatest respect is due to *Holt C. J.*, who differed, in this case, from the rest of the Judges; but his was a single opinion against that of eleven, and it has been constantly over-ruled. Nor does his argument support the decision which he gives; for he said, "If the votes of both Houses could not make a law, by parity of reason they could not declare law (c)." But this is an incorrect conclusion; for every court which administers law may declare, though it cannot make, the law. A record of this case was made up on mature deliberation had by the Judges; and the reason there stated for the decision is "*quod cognitio causæ captionis et detentionis prædicti Johannis Paty non pertinet ad curiam dictæ dominæ reginæ coram ipsâ reginâ.*"

In *Alexander Murray's Case* (d), on return to a habeas corpus, it appeared that Mr. *Murray* had been committed

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

(a) Page 51, *antè*.

(b) 2 *Ld. Ray.* 1110, 1111.

(c) 2 *Ld. Ray.* 1115. The corresponding passage in the judgment, as lately published from *Holt's MS.* (see p. 55, note (b), *antè*), is, "If before this declaration there was never any privilege or right to appropriate to the House of Commons a jurisdiction to determine the point for which *Paty* brought his action, there can be none now; if there were, it ought to be shewed. I know of none, nor did any man ever hear of it: the claim is no older than the declaration, which was made the last session of this parliament." P. 57.

(d) 1 *Wils.* 299.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

by the House of Commons for a contempt; and, on motion that he might be admitted to bail, this Court declined to interfere. The Habeas Corpus Act, 31 Car. 2. c. 2., having been cited, *Wright J.* said "it has been determined by all the Judges" "that it could never be the intent of that statute to give a judge at his chamber, or this Court, power to judge of the privileges of the House of Commons. The House of Commons is undoubtedly an high court, and it is agreed on all hands that they have power to judge of their own privileges; it need not appear to us what the contempt was, for if it did appear, we could not judge thereof." *Denison J.* added, "This Court has no jurisdiction in the present case; we granted the habeas corpus, not knowing what the commitment was, but now it appears to be for a contempt of the privileges of the House of Commons; what those privileges (of either House) are we do not know, nor need they tell us what the contempt was, because we cannot judge of it; for I must call this Court inferior to the House of Commons with respect to judging of their privileges and contempts against them." And *Foster J.* said, "The law of parliament is part of the law of the land (a)."

In *The Case of Brass Crosby*, Lord Mayor of London (b), who was committed by the House of Commons for a contempt in holding their messenger to bail for having executed their warrant, a habeas corpus was sued out and return made; and the Court of Common

(a) He added, "and there would be an end of all law if the House of Commons could not commit for a contempt; all courts of record (even the lowest) may commit for a contempt."

(b) 3 Wils. 188. S. C. 2 W. Bl. 754.

Pleas, after argument, remanded the Lord Mayor. *De Grey* C. J. said there (a), "I do not find any case where the courts have taken cognisance of such execution, or of commitments of this kind; there is no precedent of *Westminster Hall* interfering in such a case. In *Sir J. Paston's Case*, there is a case cited from the Year-Book (b), where it is held that every Court shall determine of the privilege of that court; besides, the rule is, that the court of remedy must judge by the same [law] as the court which commits: now this Court cannot take cognisance of a commitment by the House of Commons, because it cannot judge by the same law; for the law by which the Commons judge of their privileges is unknown to us." "How then can we do anything in the present case, when the law by which the Lord Mayor is committed, is different from the law by which he seeks to be relieved? He is committed by the law of parliament, and yet he would have redress from the common law; the law of parliament is only known to parliament-men, by experience in the House." "The House of Commons only know how to act within their own limits; we are not a court of appeal; we do not know certainly the jurisdiction of the House of Commons; we cannot judge of the laws and privileges of the House, because we have no knowledge of those laws and privileges; we cannot judge of the contempts thereof, we cannot judge of the punishment therefore." "Courts of justice have no cognisance of the acts of the Houses of parliament, because they belong *ad aliud examen*." *Gould*, *Blackstone*, and *Nares* Js. expressed similar opinions.

(a) 3 *Wils.* pp. 199, 200, 203.

(b) In 13 *Rep.* 64, *Coke* cites a case as *Sir John Paston's*. The reference is to 12 *Ed. 4.* 2.: perhaps *Yearb. Hil. 4 Ed. 4.* 43 A. pl. 4. is meant.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HARRARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

In

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

In *The Case of Alderman Oliver (a)*, which was the same in its circumstances with that of the Lord Mayor *Crosby*, a habeas corpus was sued out in the Court of Exchequer, and a like judgment given by the unanimous opinion of the Barons.

In *Rex v. Flower (b)*, which came before this Court on habeas corpus, *Benjamin Flower* had been committed and fined by the House of Lords for a breach of their privileges, in publishing a libel on the Bishop of *Llandaff*. Lord *Kenyon* there recognised the power of the House of Lords to imprison and fine for contempt, and said, "We were bound to grant this habeas corpus: but having seen the return to it, we are bound to remand the defendant to prison, because the subject belongs ad aliud examen." And *Grose J.* adopted the language of *De Grey C. J.* with respect to the House of Commons in *Crosby's Case (c)*, that the adjudication of the House on a contempt was a conviction, and the commitment in consequence execution; that every Court must be sole judge of its own contempts; and that no case appeared in which any Court of this Hall ever determined a matter of privilege which did not come incidentally before them.

In *Rex v. Hobhouse (d)* the commitment was by the House of Commons for contempt in publishing a libel. Mr. *Hobhouse* was brought before this Court on habeas corpus, and remanded. The Court said, "We are not authorised to enter into the discussion of any of the objections taken by the gentleman on the floor to this commitment." "The cases of Lord *Shaftesbury (e)*

(a) 2 W. Bl. 758.

(b) 8 T. R. 314.

(c) 3 Wils. 199, 201, 202.

(d) *Rex v. Hobhouse*, 2 Chitt. Rep. 207. S. C. (but the observations of the Court on this point not reported) 3 B. & Ald. 420.

(e) 6 How. St. Tr. 1269. S. C. 1 Mod. 144. 3 Keb. 792.

and

and *Rex v. Paty* (a), are decisive authorities, to shew that the courts of *Westminster Hall* cannot judge of any law, custom, or usage of parliament, and consequently they cannot discharge a person committed for a contempt of parliament. The power of commitment for contempt is incident to every court of justice, and more especially it belongs to the High Court of Parliament; and therefore it is incompetent for this Court either to question the privileges of the House of Commons, or a commitment for an offence which they have adjudged to be a contempt of those privileges."

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANBARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

In addition to these authorities, which shew that, on habeas corpus, the courts of common law will not interfere with a commitment by the House of Commons, it appears from *Bushell's Case* (b) and *Hamond v. Howell* (c) that, even if a party were discharged on habeas corpus in such a case, no action would lie for the commitment. *Bushell*, one of the jurymen committed by the court of oyer and terminer at the *Old Bailey* for acquitting *Penn* and *Mead*, and discharged subsequently by the Court of Common Pleas (d), brought an action against the Lord Mayor and Recorder for false imprisonment; and, on motion in K. B. by the defendants for time to plead, *Hale* C. J. said (b) that the habeas corpus was in the nature of a writ of error, and that, in the case of an erroneous judgment reversed, an action of false imprisonment would not lie against the Judge or against the officer. "The habeas corpus and writ of error, though it doth make void the judgment, it doth not make the awarding of the process void to

(a) 2 *Ld. Ray.* 1105. *S. C.* 14 *How. St. Tr.* 849.

(b) 1 *Mod.* 119.

(c) 1 *Mod.* 184.

(d) *Bushell's Case*, 22 *Car. 2.*, *Vaughan*, 135. *S. C.* *Freem.* (K. B. & C. P.) 1. *T. Jones*, 13.

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1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

that purpose; and the matter was done in a course of justice: they will have but a cold business of it."

Several instances may be put in which the Courts would not adjudicate upon privilege in an action for a thing done by either House, where the act itself directly raised, or might have raised, the question of privilege. In *Tash's Case* (a) complaint was made to the House of Commons that *Tash* had stopped a member of the House going into the House of Lords, and had shut the door upon him. He was committed by the Commons to the custody of the serjeant, and afterwards brought to the bar and discharged upon his submission, and payment of fees. If *Tash* had brought an action for the imprisonment, and the defendant had justified, it is clear that a court of law would not have enquired into the legality of the act of the House. So, if a party be taken into custody, under the sessional order, for an obstruction in the lobby. In *Williams's Case* (b) a person was committed for assaulting a member of the House of Commons; in *The Case of Mr. Coke's Servant* (c) a party who had arrested a servant of a member of that House was brought in custody to the bar, and discharged, paying his fees: in each case without previous adjudication, warrant, or order. Had an action been brought in either case, and a justification pleaded, the question of privilege would have arisen directly, though there had been no specific order or adjudication in the particular case: but the authorities already cited shew that the Court could not have enquired whether the privilege existed. The present case is within the same principle.

It is a general rule that the judgments of Courts of exclusive jurisdiction are conclusive against all the world; and their decisions bind Courts in which the

(a) 1 *Hals. Pr.* 190.

(b) 1 *Hals. Pr.* 92;

(c) 1 *Hals. Pr.* 112.

questions

questions decided arise incidentally. In many instances a court of peculiar jurisdiction has prevented causes which were properly to be decided there from coming before any other tribunal. In *Mitchell v. Rodney* (a) the defendant, under a plea of Not Guilty in trover, proved that the goods converted had been taken upon the surrender of *St. Eustatius*, and that a suit for condemning them was pending in the Court of Admiralty: and, the question being one of prize or no prize, which the court of common law could not determine, the House of Lords decided, affirming the judgment of the Court of King's Bench, that the defendant was entitled to judgment. In *Home v. Earl Camden* (b) the Court of Common Pleas prohibited the commissioners of appeal from the Court of Admiralty, who had issued a monition to bring in the proceeds of property claimed as prize; but the Court of King's Bench reversed this decision; *Lord Camden v. Home* (c): and the House of Lords affirmed the judgment of the King's Bench; *Home v. Earl Camden* (d). The principle was the same as in the preceding case; but this case was the stronger, because the question arose between two *British* subjects, and the property had been sold pending the suit. *Le Caux v. Eden* (e) goes further still. That was an action for false imprisonment: and it appeared that the imprisonment took place by the capture of a ship which was released by the Court of Admiralty: but the Court of King's Bench held that the question of personal injury was incidental to that of prize or no prize, which could not be decided by a Court of common law. *Lindo v. Lord Rodney* (g) supports the same principle. Even

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HARRARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

(a) 2 Br. Parl. C. 423. (b) 1 H. Bl. 476.

(c) 4 T. R. 382. (d) 2 H. Bl. 533. S. C. 6 Br. Parl. C. 303.

(e) 2 Doug. 594. (g) Note [1] to *Le Caux v. Eden*, 2 Doug. 613.

the

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

the decisions of foreign prize courts are binding as to the facts found by them; *Geyer v. Aguilar* (a). Similar decisions have been given in the instance of the Ecclesiastical Courts; *Bouchier v. Taylor* (b), *Prudham v. Phillips* (c): of judgments of forfeiture and condemnation in the Exchequer; *Martin v. Wilsford* (d), *Hart v. Macnamara* (e), *Scott v. Shearman* (g): of acquittal in the same Court; *Cooke v. Sholl* (h): (though in the last two cases the action was trespass, and the previous judgment was *in rem*): of a judgment by commissioners of excise; *Fuller v. Fotch* (i). It is true that a stranger may shew (though a party to the judgment may not) that the judgment was obtained by fraud, as was said in *Prudham v. Phillips* (c) and in *The Duchess of Kingston's Case* (k). So the sentence of an Ecclesiastical Court in a suit for the fulfilment of a contract of marriage *per verba de futuro* was held binding when given in evidence upon non assumpsit in an action for a breach of promise of marriage; *Da Costa v. Villa Real* (l). In *Brittain v. Kinnaird* (m) a conviction by a magistrate, under stat. 2 G. 3. c. 28., was held conclusive proof that the vessel was a boat within the statute, in an action of trespass for taking the boat. And there *Dallas C. J.*, referring to a suggestion that a magistrate might seize a seventy-four gun ship, and call it a boat, said, "Suppose such a thing done, the conviction is still conclusive, and we cannot look out of it."

The following authorities shew that, when a question

(a) 7 T. R. 681.

(b) 4 Br. Parl. C. 708.

(c) Amb. 763.

(d) Carth. 323.

(e) 4 Price, 154. (note to *Rex v. Horton*).

(g) 2 W. Bl. 977.

(h) 5 T. R. 255.

(i) Carth. 346. S. C. Holk, 287.

(k) 20 How. St. Tr. 537-45, note.

(l) 2 Str. 961.

(m) 1 Br. & B. 432."

comes

comes incidentally before a Court not having original jurisdiction in the subject-matter, such Court must decide according to the law of the Court which has the original jurisdiction. In *Juxon v. Lord Byron* (a) it was decided that the Spiritual Court, if a temporal matter arise incidentally before it, must decide it according to common law. So, if the temporal question be a matter of fact, it must be tried by the same evidence as at common law; *Shotter v. Friend* (b). In *Barnes's Case* (c) the return to a habeas corpus shewed a judgment by the warden of the Cinque Ports, under which the party was imprisoned for refusing, upon summons, to restore an anchor which he had taken when thrown up between high and low water mark. This judgment no Court of common law could have pronounced; yet the Court of King's Bench held it a good return, it being alleged on it that the proceeding "fuit juxta leges maritimas." The same principle appears from *Gare v. Gapper* (d), followed by *Gould v. Gapper* (e). In the latter case Lord *Ellenborough* cited the language of *Blackstone*, 3 *Com.* 112., where it is said that a prohibition "may be directed to the Courts Christian, the University Courts, the Court of Chivalry, or the Court of Admiralty, where they concern themselves with any matter not within their jurisdiction; as if the first should attempt to try the validity of a custom pleaded, or the latter a contract made or to be executed within this kingdom. Or, if, in handling of matters clearly within their cognizance, they transgress the bounds prescribed to them by the laws of *England*; as where they require two witnesses to prove the payment

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

(a) 2 *Lev.* 64.

(b) 2 *Salk.* 547.

(c) 2 *Roll. R.* 157.

(d) 3 *East*, 472.

(e) 5 *East*, 345.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

of a legacy, a release of tithes, or the like ; in such cases also a prohibition will be awarded. For, as the fact of signing a release, or of actual payment, is not properly a spiritual question, but only allowed to be decided in those Courts, because incident or accessory to some original question clearly within their jurisdiction ; it ought therefore, where the two laws differ, to be decided not according to the spiritual, but the temporal law ; else the same question might be determined different ways, according to the Court in which the suit is depending : an impropriety, which no wise government can or ought to endure, and which is therefore a ground of prohibition." *Carter v. Crawley (a)*, a judgment of *North C. J.*, shews the same principle. It follows that this Court must adopt the law of parliament, alleged, as a fact, in the plea, and admitted by the demurrer. ,

In *Rex v. Wilkes (b)* a member of the House of Commons, arrested under a Secretary of State's warrant, for publishing a seditious paper, brought habeas corpus in the Common Pleas, and was discharged as being privileged. Afterwards the two Houses resolved that privilege did not extend to cases of libel (c). The Courts of law would now act upon those resolutions, and disallow the privilege. In 1769 *Wilkes* was expelled from the House of Commons for a libel (d) ; and the House of Commons resolved that he was incapable of being re-elected for the then parliament (e). Afterwards the resolution was rescinded (g). The point

(a) *T. Raym.* 496.

(b) 2 *Wils.* 151.

(c) *Nov.* 1763. 15 *Parl. Hist.* 1362, 1371.

(d) *Feb.* 3d, 1769. 16 *Parl. Hist.* 546.

(e) *Feb.* 17th, 1769. 16 *Parl. Hist.* 580.

(g) *May* 1782. 22 *Parl. Hist.* 1411.

might

might have arisen, or might now arise, incidentally before the common law Courts upon an action for a false return, or a double return, under stat. 7 & 8 W. 3. c. 7. ss. 2, 3.: and in such case the Courts would clearly be bound by the resolution of the House, if properly placed on the record.

Courts of exclusive jurisdiction interfere to prevent other Courts from acting in matters within such jurisdiction. The House of Commons might therefore have prevented this Court from proceeding in the present case, had that been considered an expedient course. In an *Anonymous Case* in *Lane* (a) the Court of Exchequer restrained a party from proceeding in trespass in any other Court, against a bailiff who had levied an amercement under Exchequer process. In *Cawthorne v. Campbell* (b) the same practice was elaborately maintained by *Eyre* C. B., where a similar action was removed from the Common Pleas into the Exchequer. And, in an *Anonymous Case* in *Anstruther* (c), the case last mentioned was acted upon by *Macdonald* C. B. In these cases the Courts have judged of their own privileges, and have asserted them by preventing other Courts from interfering. So the Court of Chancery will not allow a suit (unless by its own permission) against a receiver appointed by itself; as ejectment; *Angel v. Smith* (d). *Ex parte Clarke* (e) is to the same effect. In *Scroggs's Case* (g), 26 C. 2., a serjeant at law was arrested on a latitat at the door of *Westminster Hall*: and the Court of Common Pleas dis-

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

(a) *Lane*, 55.(b) 1 *Anstr.* 205. (note).(c) 1 *Anstr.* 205.(d) 9 *Ves.* 335.(e) 1 *Rus. & Myl.* 563.(g) 6 *Bac. Abr.* 530. (7th ed.). *Privilege*, (B), 2.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

charged him, and said that they would commit the plaintiff if he sued the sheriff for the escape.

In *Biggs's Case*, A. D. 1768 (a), the Lords ordered a person into the custody of the Black Rod, for bringing an action against a justice of the peace who had apprehended him by command of the House for a riot at the door of the House. The attorney was also committed to *Newgate*; and the plaintiff in the action was not discharged from custody until he had released the defendant. In *Hyde's Case*, A. D. 1788 (b), Mr. *Hyde* was committed by the Lords for indicting a constable who had assaulted him; the assault having been committed in pursuance of a general order of the House to refuse admission into *Westminster Hall* during the trial of *Warren Hastings*. In 1827 the House of Lords acted upon the same principle in *Bell's Case* (c), where the messenger of the House had received an umbrella from the owner at the door of the House, and had not returned it, and the owner sued for the value in the Court of Conscience, and recovered. The House summoned both the owner and the clerks of the Court before them: and the plaintiff was discharged on his submission, and the officers upon their declaring their ignorance of the nature of the summons. The proceeding might have been the same, if the suit had been in a superior court. [Lord *Denman* C. J. Had the messenger there done more than take the umbrella?] All that appears is, that it was deposited in the usual place, and not returned to the owner. But the question

(a) 32 *Lords' Journ.* 185, 187.

(b) 38 *Lords' Journ.* 250.

(c) 59 *Lords' Journ.* 199, 206.

clearly turned, not on the merits of the particular case, but on the contempt.

There is a class of cases in which it has been held that actions of this kind are not maintainable, though the House of Parliament has not interposed; and this to avoid collision on questions of privilege. Before stat. 7 & 8 W. 3. c. 7., in *Nevill v. Stroud* (a), the question arose, but was not decided. *Barnardiston v. Some* (b), which has been relied upon for the plaintiff, was a decision of this Court that an action lay for deceitfully making a double return: but that judgment was reversed in the Exchequer Chamber by six judges against two; *Barnardiston v. Soame* (c); where North C. J. delivered a judgment fully bearing out the principle now contended for. The judgment of the Exchequer Chamber was affirmed in the House of Lords after the Revolution; *Barnardiston v. Soame* (d); upon consultation with the Judges. The doctrine of the last case was acted upon in *Onslow's Case* (e), and recognized in *Prideaux v. Morris* (g) with the concurrence of Holt C. J. It is true that in *Wynne v. Middleton* (h) Willes C. J. dissented from the opinion delivered in *Prideaux v. Morris* (g): but his opinion is contrary to repeated decisions.

Actions for things done in parliament, or by the authority of parliament, have uniformly been held not to lie, and judgments in them, if obtained by the parties suing, reversed. In *The Bishop of Winchester's Case* (i) the Bishop was proceeded against in the King's Bench

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

(a) 2 Sid. 168.

(b) 2 Lev. 114.

(c) 6 How. St. Tr. 1070.

(d) 6 How. St. Tr. 1117.

(e) 2 Vent. 37.

(g) 2 Salk. 502.

(h) 1 Wils. 125.

(i) 4 Inst. 15. Yearb. Pasch. 9 Ed. 3. fo. 18 B. pl. 32.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

for absenting himself from parliament; and he pleaded to the jurisdiction, that such offence ought to be corrected in parliament, and not elsewhere: and the plea was allowed. In *Plowden's Case* (a) the Attorney-General filed an information in this Court against *Plowden*, the eminent lawyer, and others, for departing from parliament without license: *Plowden* traversed; and the proceedings, which commenced in the reign of *Mary*, dropped upon the demise of the Crown. It cannot be inferred that *Plowden* meant to admit the jurisdiction, though he shewed by his plea that, in point of fact, he had not committed the offence. In *Strode's Case* (b) a member of the House of Commons was prosecuted in the Stannary Court for bringing a bill into parliament; and the prosecution succeeded: but, upon this, stat. 4 H. 8. c. 8. was passed, avoiding the proceedings, and all suits &c., for the future, "for any bill, speaking, reasoning, or declaring of any matter or matters concerning the parliament;" and it was afterwards resolved by both Houses (c) that this extended to all members in all parliaments. In *Sir John Elliot's Case* (d) the Attorney-General filed an information against *Sir John Elliot* for language and acts which, as appeared by the information, had been spoken and done in the House. The defendant pleaded to the jurisdiction. The Judges stated, at the opening of the case, that they had already considered and resolved upon the point, and that they should hold offences committed criminally and contemptuously in parliament punishable in another Court, the parliament being ended; and so they ultimately decided, and the defendant was found guilty. But no Judge,

(a) 4 Inst. 17. 1 Parl. Hist. 625.

(b) 1 Hats. 85.

(c) 1667. 9 Com. Journ. 19; 12 Lords' Journ. 166.

(d) 3 How. St. Tr. 293.

even there, went so far as to hold that they had jurisdiction over acts done by the whole House: it was admitted that there was no such jurisdiction. The Long Parliament, in 1641, complained of this judgment, as against the law and privileges of parliament; and it was reversed in the House of Lords (a) after the Restoration, both Houses having passed resolutions against it. The authority of *Rex v. Williams* (b) is abandoned on the other side. There the defendant was indicted for having (when Speaker) published *Dangerfield's* Narrative by order of the House of Commons. He pleaded to the jurisdiction; the Attorney-General demurred; and the Court gave judgment immediately, interrupting *Pollexfen* upon his using the words "The Court of Parliament." The defendant's counsel declined to go on; judgment was given for the Crown, and the defendant was fined 10,000*l*. The House of Commons, after the Revolution, resolved that the judgment was illegal, and against the freedom of parliament (c). That was, indeed, the act of only one branch of the legislature; but the Bill of Rights, stat. 1 *W. & M. sess. 2. c. 2.*, recites, as one of the grievances committed under *James II.*, prosecutions in the Court of King's Bench for matters and causes cognisable only in parliament; and declares that debates or proceedings in parliament ought not to be impeached or questioned in any court or place out of parliament. The decision was not, indeed, actually reversed; nor, in strictness, was it erroneous, for the plea was to the jurisdiction, and not in bar, as it ought to have been: so that the defence was not formally on

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

(a) See 3 *How. St. Tr.* 319, 333.

(b) 2 *Show.* 471. *S. C.* 13 *How. St. Tr.* 1369.

(c) 1689. 10 *Com. Journ.* 215.

1839. the record (a). But it is admitted here that, in principle, that decision cannot be supported; and such an admission is conclusive against the plaintiff. The act complained of here is as much done by the whole House of Commons as the publication by the Speaker in *Rex v. Williams* (b). No just distinction can be suggested between criminal and civil proceedings: if there be no criminal liability, there can be no civil liability.

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STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

In *Jay v. Topham* (c) the defendant was sued for false imprisonment; he pleaded to the jurisdiction, that he was serjeant-at-arms to the House of Commons, and had taken the plaintiff by order of the House. The plaintiff demurred to the plea, as being pleaded after full defence, and yet not answering all the declaration: and there was judgment of respondeat ouster. After the Revolution, this case was brought before the House of Commons on the defendant's petition, and referred to a committee of privileges. The House resolved that the judgment was illegal (d). The two surviving Judges, *Pemberton* and *Jones*, being brought before the House, defended themselves on the ground that the plea should not have been to the jurisdiction: but they admitted fully that the defence was, if properly pleaded,

(a) The Attorney-General here stated that it had been suggested that the proceeding was collusively instituted, but, he said, it appeared, from documents then in the possession of a descendant of Sir *W. Williams*, that at least the form of payment of 8000*l.* (which is said in *Shower* to have been accepted for the 10,000*l.*) was gone through. He observed, however, that Sir *W. Williams* afterwards became a favourite of the Duke of *York*, and was employed in the prosecution of the Seven Bishops; 12 *How. St. Tr.* 183, see 225, note. As an instance of the ostensible exaction of a fine, he referred to Sir *S. Bernardiston's Case*, in the proceedings between *Skinner* and *The East India Company*, 3 *Hats. Pr.* 345.

(b) 2 *Show.* 471. *S. C.* 13 *How. St. Tr.* 1369.

(c) Note (a) to *Burdett v. Abbot*, 14 *East*, 102.

(d) 12 *How. St. Tr.* 821.

a valid

a valid one. In fact, however, it seems that there was a plea in bar, which was over-ruled, as appears from *Nelson* (a), and from *Topham's* petition (b). The two Judges, therefore, had knowingly violated the law, to gratify the Court party, and were not treated with undeserved severity by the Commons. The record is not in the Treasury; it was taken up to the House of Commons on the occasion of the petition, and probably not returned. *Verdon v. Topham* (c) was an action of the same kind against the same party: there was a plea to the jurisdiction, and judgment of respondeat ouster; but little else appears. *Lord Peterborough v. Williams* (d) was an action of scandalum magnatum against the Speaker, for reflections on the plaintiff contained in *Dangerfield's* Narrative. The same matter was pleaded as in *Rex v. Williams* (e); but it does not appear that judgment was given, and the suit seems to have been compromised. *Dangerfield* himself was prosecuted, 1 *Ja.* 2., for publishing the Narrative (g), and convicted; but whether the circumstances of the publication afforded any defence under privilege does not appear. The severity of the punishment, however, shews the feeling which existed as to the publication, at the time of the trial, and the spirit in which, probably, the proceedings were conducted.

The ultimate result of the cases of this period is, that no criminal or civil liability is incurred for acts done by the authority of either House of Parliament. It is true, that the bill for reversing the judgment against *Williams*

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

(a) 2 *Nels. Abr.* 1248. was referred to; but *Verdon v. Topham*, *T. Jones*, 208, is the case there named.

(b) 10 *Com. Journ.* 164.

(c) 2 *T. Jones*, 208.

(d) 2 *Show.* 505. 13 *How. St. Tr.* 1437.

(e) 13 *How. St. Tr.* 1369. *S. C.* 2 *Show.* 471.

(g) *Rex v. Dangerfield*, 3 *Mod.* 68.

1839. was not carried. It passed the House of Commons, but not the Upper House. The reason is supposed to have been, that it was meant to indemnify *Williams*, but that there was no fund. It was thought hard that *Sawyer*, the Attorney-General, should be made to furnish the indemnity; and he had friends in the House of Lords. The proposed act was, in its nature, private: but the principle of the decision had been disaffirmed by the Bill of Rights.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

Since the Revolution, there has been only one instance in which actions have been brought for any thing done by the authority of the House, namely, the case of Sir *Francis Burdett*. *Burdett v. Abbot* (a) was an action of trespass against the Speaker for false imprisonment; and, in principle, it cannot be distinguished from an action on the case for libel. *Holroyd*, who was counsel for the plaintiff, argued that the common law courts could judge of the law of parliament upon the question arising incidentally: but he failed to shew that the question there did arise incidentally. The Attorney-General, Sir *V. Gibbs*, shewed that the case could not be distinguished from those which had arisen upon habeas corpus. And that proposition was adopted by the Judges, who held that the question arose as directly in the case before them as it would have done on a proceeding upon habeas corpus. So, here, the case is as if the House of Commons had committed the plaintiff for suing, and he had brought himself up by habeas corpus. In *Burdett v. Colman* (b) the action was against an officer of the House: the same defence was pleaded as in the former case; but the plaintiff new

(a) In K. B. 14 *East*, 1. In Exch. Ch. 4 *Taunt.* 401. In Dom. Proc. 5 *Dow.* 165.

(b) In K. B. 14 *East*, 163. In Dom. Proc. 5 *Dow.* 170.

assigned for excess, and the defendant had a verdict. That case also was taken up to the House of Lords, for judgment non obstante veredicto : and in that also it was held that the complaint was answered, and that the warrant of commitment would have sufficed on return to a habeas corpus. Now the decisions must have been the same, if the actions had been in case for publishing the warrant, which was *primâ facie* a libel, and the defendants had justified under the order of the House. It is observable, too, that *Burdett v. Colman* (a) shews that there is no distinction between the case of the Speaker and that of a servant of the House.

Many instances have occurred in which such actions would have been brought if they had lain. In *Shirley v. Fagg* (b) the defendant, a member of the House of Commons, being served with an order of the House of Lords to answer a petition of appeal by the plaintiff, referred to the House of Commons as to his privilege. The plaintiff was arrested under the Speaker's warrant, but escaped. A fresh warrant issued against him ; and his four counsel, *Pemberton, Churchill, Peck, and Porter*, were taken into custody by the serjeant at arms, and sent to the *Tower*. Four writs of habeas corpus before the House of Lords were taken out ; but the Lieutenant of the *Tower* refused to obey. The main question between the two Houses was settled at a later period. No doubt the conduct of the House of Commons was wrong. Had there been any remedy by action, the parties arrested would have availed themselves of it, as they cannot be supposed to have been ignorant of their rights. But no such proceeding took place. The cases mentioned on the other side, of abuses of privilege,

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANBARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

(a) In K. B. 14 *East*, 163. In Dom. Proc. 5 *Dow*. 170.

(b) 6 *How. St. Tr.* 1121.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

confirm this argument; the greater the abuses, the stronger is the argument from the absence of any proceeding for a remedy by action. *Littleton*, speaking of the statute of *Merton*, says (a) that the not bringing an action where it might be brought if maintainable, is strong proof that no such action lies. The omission, in the present instance, cannot be accounted for by any dread entertained of the House, because no such feeling has prevented the suing out writs of habeas corpus.

Then, as to the cases which may be relied upon as supporting the jurisdiction of the common law courts. In *Atwyll's Case* (b), 17 *Ed. 4.*, *Atwyll*, a member of the House of Commons, complained to the House that writs of *fi. fa.* and *ca. sa.* had been sued out against him in the Exchequer. What took place was a conference between the two Houses, the result of which was an order by parliament, in the form of an act, with the royal assent, that the writs should be superseded till the end of that parliament, saving to the judgment creditor his execution after that. One object of this act was, that the judgment creditor might have justice; for, till stat. 1 *Jā. 1. c. 13*, a discharge by privilege put an end to the debt; though now, by that act, the debt is revived after the end of the parliament (c). Therefore, in particular cases, it was customary to pass acts for preserving the creditors' remedy, when members were discharged by privilege. But no inference arises from this in favour

(a) Sect. 108. *Co. Litt.* 80 b.

(b) 1 *Hats. Pr.* 48. This and the three following cases are from the Parliament Rolls.

(c) It is remarkable that, in this statute, s. 2, it was thought necessary to make an express provision that no sheriff, &c., from whose custody any person taken in execution should be delivered by privilege of parliament, should be chargeable with "any action whatsoever, for delivering out of execution any such privileged person."

of the power claimed for the common law courts. *Larke's Case (a)*, *Clerke's Case (b)*, and *Hyde's Case (c)*, are to be explained on the same ground. In *The Prior of Malton's Case (d)* an action was commenced against the defendants for arresting the Prior, by his horses and harness, on his return from parliament; the writ reciting that members ought to be free eundo et redeundo. What the result was, does not appear: the case therefore proves nothing. In *Trewynnard's Case (e)* the sheriff was sued for an escape from final process; and the defendant pleaded that, while *Trewynnard* the prisoner was in his custody, he was discharged by the King's writ of privilege, as a member of the House of Commons, arrested while coming to parliament. The plea was demurred to; but there was no judgment: so that the case proves nothing. But an argument for the sheriff is extant in *Dyer (g)*, containing this passage: "Although parliament should err in granting this writ, yet it is not reversible in another court, nor any default in the sheriff." In *Donne v. Walsh (h)* the defendant was sued in debt in the Exchequer. He pleaded a writ of privilege, which set out a custom, that neither members nor their servants, coming to parliament, ought to be arrested or impleaded; and averring that he was a servant of the Earl of *Essex*, so coming &c., prayed judgment. The plaintiff, in his replication, prayed that the writ might be disallowed, for that there was no such custom. The Barons consulted the Judges of both the other

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

(a) 1 *Hats. Pr.* 17. 8 *H.* 6.(b) 1 *Hats. Pr.* 34. 39 *H.* 6.(c) 1 *Hats. Pr.* 44. 14 *E.* 4.(d) 1 *Hats. Pr.* 12. 9 *E.* 2. Citing p. 20. of *Prynne's Animadversions on 4 Inst.*(e) 1 *Hats. Pr.* 59. 36 & 37 *H.* 8.(g) 1 *Dyer*, 61. b.(h) 1 *Hats. Pr.* 41. 12 *E.* 4. From *Prynne's Register*, part 4., 752.

Courts,

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

Courts, found that there was no such custom as to not being impleaded, disallowed the writ, and put the defendant to answer. Here the question arose incidentally: the action was not brought for an act done by the order of the House; but it merely involved incidentally a question of personal privilege. The same explanation applies to *Rymer v. Cosins* (a). In *Pledall's Case* (b) the Houses, on conference, agreed that it was no breach of privilege to bind a member by recognizance to appear in the Star Chamber after the end of the parliament, for matters not connected with his character as a member. That proves nothing as to the present question. In *Cook's Case* (c) a dispute arose between the Lord Chancellor and the House of Commons, whether members were privileged from being served with subpœna; and a search for precedents was directed, but no report was made during the parliament. And, besides, that also was a mere question of personal immunity.

In *Benyon v. Evelyn* (d) the Statute of Limitations was pleaded in bar to assumpsit for goods sold and delivered. The plaintiff replied that defendant was a member of the House of Commons from the time of the promise to the death of King *Charles I.*, when parliament was dissolved by such death; that, from thence to the Restoration, there was no Court of Chancery from which an original could issue, and no Court of record of the King open; and that the action was brought within six years of 29th May 1660. Rejoinder, that the cause of action, if any, accrued on 10th

(a) 1 *Hats. Pr.* 42. 12 *E.* 4.

(b) Cited, 14 *East*, 47, from *Prynne's Reg.*, part 4. p. 1213.

(c) 1 *Hats. Pr.* 96. 26 *Eliz.* Cited from *Dewes's Journal*. See also *O. Bridgm. Judgments*, 351.

(d) *O. Bridgm. Judgments*, 324.

July,

July, 21 Car. 1., and that, from thence to the death of *Charles I.*, and thence hitherto, the Court of Chancery and the superior courts at *Westminster* were open, &c. Sur-rejoinder, that the defendant was a member till 30th *January* 1649, so that the plaintiff could not sue an original or bill against him, and that, from thence till 29th *May* 1660, there were no Courts, &c.: to which the defendant demurred. Here it was agreed that, even if the member had been privileged, the defence was not answered, stat. 21 *Ja. 1. c. 16.* containing no exception in such case. The dicta of *Bridgman C. J.*, as to the privilege, were therefore extra-judicial, and a parade of authorities on the subject was unnecessary. Further, if privilege would have constituted a defence, the question would only have arisen incidentally: so that the dicta at most shew merely that the Courts may determine the question of privilege if it arise incidentally. *Bayley J.* so understood the observations; *Burdett v. Abbot (a)*. Further, it appears that *Bridgman* did not believe that the House had passed a resolution declaring it breach of privilege to file an original against a member. *Bridgman* relies upon *Trewynnard's Case (b)*, and others which have been already explained. He relies also on a case in the reign of *Ed. 3. (c)*, saying that there the Judges proceeded, notwithstanding a resolution and command to surcease. That case was assize of novel disseisin, in which the question was, whether the tenant was a bastard or not. The point was referred to the Bishop, who certified (*d*) to the Judges of assize that he was

1839.

 STOCKDALE
against
HANEARD.

 Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.
(a) 14 *East*, 33.(b) 1 *Hats. Pr.* 59.(c) *Yearb. Pasch.* 39 *Ed. 3. f. 14 A.* See *Lib. Ass.* 38 *Ed. 3. f. 224 B.* pl. 14.(d) See *Vin. Abr., Bastard (K), (L)*.

stating

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

stating the facts. The tenant caused it to be suggested in parliament that the Bishop had certified against the common law, and prayed remedy. There was then a writ to the justices of assize to surcease; but they took the assize nevertheless, in right of the damages, and adjourned the parties to the Common Pleas. Then a writ came to them to cause the record to be brought to the council before the Bishop of L. and two other Bishops, to try if the cause assigned by the Bishop for bastardy were good. They adjudged the certificate good. Afterwards, because the justices of assize had taken the assize contrary to the writ, the Chancellor reversed their judgment before the council, where it was adjudged as the bishop had certified, and ordered the record back into the Common Pleas. There it was adjudged that the plaintiff should recover, because the Bishop had certified that the tenant was bastard. But it is said that the Justices took no regard of the reversal before the council, because that was not a place where the judgment could be reversed. Now it does not appear that the writ to surcease, in this case, was issued by parliament. In *Fitzherbert's* (a), *Brooke's* (b), and *Rolle's* (c) *Abridgments*, this case is cited merely to shew that the Judges consider themselves bound by the Bishop's certificate, without regard to the grounds on which it proceeds. Even if the writ issued from parliament, the case does not support *Bridgman's* doctrine that the Courts will not obey a writ to surcease from proceedings against a member: for it does not appear that the tenant was a member. *Bridgman* relies also on *Staunton v. Staun-*

(a) See *Fitz. Gr. Abr., Bastardy*, pl. 8.

(b) See *Bro. Abr., Bastardy*, pl. 21.

(c) See 2 *Roll. Abr.* 592, l. 35, *Trial* (E) pl. 1.

ton (a). That was formed on in the Common Pleas, where, a question arising upon an averment in the demandant's counterplea, he "sued to council in parliament" (which seems to mean that he took the opinion of the House of Lords), whether the averment could be so made; and the Lords held that it could. A writ was then issued to the Common Pleas, reciting the opinion, and commanding them to go on. The Judges differing, the case was again brought before parliament, which again directed the Common Pleas to proceed, and it was accorded in parliament that judgment should be given for the demandant. This was done; but a writ of error was brought, so that the matter again came before the Judges, notwithstanding the two resolutions. The case occurred in the reign of *Edward III.*, at which time it was not unusual for the Courts of law to consult parliament in cases of difficulty. All that the instance shews is that, at that time, the courts of common law would, in a case between party and party, hold themselves at liberty to give judgment contrary to the opinion of the Lords delivered in a quasi-judicial capacity. It has no connection with the point discussed by *Bridgman*, or with the present question. There was no point of privilege involved.

In 1681 (33 C. 2.), *Fitzharris* (b) had been impeached for high treason; and the Lords resolved (a question having arisen whether such impeachment should be in the case of a commoner) that the case should be proceeded with in the ordinary course of law. The House of Commons passed a resolution against the

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General

(a) *Fix. Gr. Abr. Voucher*, pl. 119, and 2 *Rot. Parl.* 122 (14 Ed. 3.).

(b) 8 *How. St. Tr.* 223.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

resolution of the House of Lords : and, two days after, parliament was dissolved. Then *Fitzharris*, being indicted in this Court, pleaded in abatement that an impeachment was depending : and the plea was overruled, and judgment of respondent ouster given. The only point there determined was, that an impeachment in a parliament which was dissolved, did not abate an indictment in the common law courts (a). That has nothing to do with any question of privilege. In *Knowles's Case* (or *Lord Banbury's Case* (b)) the defendant was indicted for murder, as *Charles Knowles*, and pleaded in abatement that he was Earl of *Banbury*, which was no doubt a good plea. A replication, that he had petitioned the House of Lords to be tried by his peers as Earl of *Banbury*, and that the petition had been dismissed, was held bad on demurrer ; and properly ; for the proceeding of the Lords was *coram non judice*, they having no jurisdiction in such cases unless on reference to them by the Crown ; in fact, the Crown sometimes decides such cases upon the advice of its own law officers, as in the case of the *Huntingdon* peerage. This is therefore no authority on privilege. The attempt was to plead an adjudication, but no regular adjudication was shewn. Neither House, as such, had any interest in the question.

In *Ashby v. White* (c) the question was one in which the Houses of Parliament had no interest : it turned, according to *Holt C. J.*, on common and statute law. Three judges against *Holt C. J.* decided, in the King's Bench,

(a) In *Warren Hastings's Case*, it was resolved by both Houses, in 1791, that the dissolution of parliament does not abate a pending impeachment. See *Parl. Hist.* vol. 28. p. 1018, vol. 29. p. 514. As to publications on this subject, see 2 *How. St. Tr.* 1446 note.

(b) 12 *How. St. Tr.* 1167. S. C. 2 *Salk.* 509. 1 *Ld. Ray.* 10.

(c) 2 *Ld. Ray.* 938. S. C. 14 *How. St. Tr.* 695.

that

that such action did not lie. On error, in the House of Lords, of the ten judges present, one doubted, five held that the action did not lie, and four that it did. It was decided by fifty lords against sixteen that it did lie (a). Lord *Mansfield*, in *Milward v. Serjeant* (b), disapproved of the decision. But, at any rate, it has no bearing upon a case where an express resolution of the House of Commons is judicially before the Court. This remark applies to later cases, in which it has been held that such action lies; but in none of which was there any conflict as to privilege between the House and a court of law; *Milward v. Serjeant* (b), *Drewe v. Coulton* (c), *Fox v. Corbett* (d).

The Duchess of Somerset v. The Earl of Manchester (e) is sometimes referred to for the dicta contained in it. There, in a case before the Delegates, in which the validity of a will was in question, the defendant, being a peer, wrote a letter to the Delegates demanding forty days' privilege, to put off the sentence, before the session of parliament. This letter the Delegates might have disregarded entirely. They came, however, to five resolutions, importing, first, that they would not notice a demand of privilege made by letter, but only one signified by writ of privilege under the great seal: secondly, that, when questions of privilege of parliament come legally before the courts, they are the proper judges to allow or disallow the privilege: thirdly, that privilege was not to be allowed to a party sued *alieno jure*: fourthly, that the Earl had not privilege for forty days before the session:

1899.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

(a) 2 *Lord Ray*. 958.(b) Note (b) to 14 *East*, 59.(c) 1 *East*, 563. *noté* (b).(d) 1784. Cited 14 *East*, 62.(e) *Prynne's Reg.* Part 4. 1214. A. D. 1663.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

fifthly, that the Judges were not bound to proceed, in courts of justice, according to the votes of either House in cases of privilege, but according to the known laws of the realm, their oaths and trusts: sixthly, that they might pass sentence without breach of privilege, the Earl's personal attendance not being necessary. They passed sentence accordingly. But, of these resolutions, the first is clearly wrong, if meant to affirm that privilege can never be noticed except when there is a writ of privilege. The second, from the cases cited (a), appears to refer only to those instances where the question arises incidentally. The third is unimportant here. The fourth would alone have been sufficient to decide the case. The fifth is purely gratuitous, there being no resolution of the House before the Delegates.

The decision in *The Duchess of Kingston's Case* (b) against the conclusiveness of a former sentence, when disputed by a person not party to the suit in which it was given, cannot militate against the principle here argued for by the defendant.

In *Mr. Long Wellesley's Case* (c) a member of the House of Commons was committed by Lord Chancellor Brougham for contempt in detaining a ward of Chancery: a committee of the House disallowed the claim; and the Chancellor disallowed it also. The decision of the Court was in accordance with the resolution of the House. In *Mr. Lechmere Charlton's Case* (d) Lord Chancellor Cottenham committed a member of the House of Commons for a contempt. The member petitioned

(a) *Donne v. Walsh*, 1 *Hats. Pr.* 41. See *antè*, p. 77. *Ryder v. Cosins*, 1 *Hats. Pr.* 42. See *antè*, p. 78.

(b) 20 *How. St. Tr.* 355.

(c) 2 *Russ. & M.* 689.

(d) 2 *Mylne & Cr.* 316. .j

the House: but the committee of privileges decided against his claim of privilege. The Lord Chancellor appears to consider the House the proper tribunal to decide the question, and does not say how he should have acted if their decision had been different (a).

III. Assuming that this Court were competent to enquire into the existence of the privilege, it may be shewn that the power of printing and publishing reports and papers, though of a criminatory nature, for public information and benefit, has long existed. If the House has power to order the publication, it must follow as a necessary consequence that no action will lie; for criminatory matter published by lawful authority cannot be a libel. The fact of sale for money can be no material ingredient in the offence; nor does it appear by the plea that the paper in question was sold (b).

It is conceded that a publication confined to the use of members is lawful; yet the evil now complained of must result to the party inculpated, in an equal or greater degree, from this limited circulation. It is presumed that every member of the upper as well as the lower House may read it. If the language is not actionable *per se* as verbal slander, he may repeat it to others. The slander may thus obtain general publicity; yet not a copy can be sold, or shewn to the party injured; and

(a) The Attorney-General here cited, in addition to the authorities before adduced by him from text writers, "*Lex Parliamentaria*, or a Treatise of the Law and Custom of the Parliaments of England" (1690), in which it is stated that the Houses, though now sitting separately, continue one Court; that the parliament gives law to other courts, and therefore ought not to receive it from them (p. 36, 37.); and that "it doth not belong to the Judges to judge of any law, custom, or privilege of parliament" (p. 9.).

(b) It does not appear on the record that the *selling* is either complained of or confessed.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

1839.

he is thus deprived of all means of vindicating his character.

**STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.**

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

That the law may not, in the case either of limited or of general circulation, afford a remedy by action, is no argument against the authority of the House; for there are many instances of injury without remedy by suit or indictment: the most opprobrious terms, within certain limits, may be used, in speech, to assail the character of man or woman, and yet the law afford no redress. The policy of the law excludes such a remedy; and the private injury is more than balanced by the public benefit. The difficulty of drawing the line between a limited and a general circulation is itself a proof that no distinction exists. How many copies are to be printed? Are the wants of a future House as well as the present to be provided for? What is to be done with the copies on a dissolution? Are the peers to have them? And, if they are, may copies be supplied to the Judges, attorney and solicitor-general, and others summoned to attend the Lords by writ? If the members of the House of Commons are alone to have copies, what use is to be made of them? May a member read his copy from the hustings in his own vindication. On his death, what are his executors to do with it? Are they to burn the copy, or will it be a devastavit to do so? Similar questions may be asked in the case of a member resigning his seat. On a dissolution, are all copies to be burnt? Is it indictable to deliver copies to public libraries, or to give them in exchange for other public papers to a foreign state, agreeably to a recent arrangement? Can a rule which it is impossible to obey, at least without preposterous results, be sanctioned by the law of the land?

There

There are three modes of proving the existence of privilege. 1. By the necessity of it. 2. By long usage. 3. By long acquiescence in it.

1. As to the necessity here. There may not be a physical necessity, as there is for permission to a member to enter the House and take his seat; but there is a like necessity to that which is recognized as the foundation of the more limited right of circulation among members. There is, in fact, no absolute necessity even for such limited privilege, since every member may be present, and may hear every paper and proceeding read over. But in practice this would be impossible, or so inconvenient that the House could not efficiently discharge its functions if this right to print for its own use were not allowed. Now it is the same kind of necessity which exists for the same mode of communicating information to the whole constituency. The theory of the constitution supposes a constant intercourse between the representative and the constituent. The constituent petitions the House, and the House informs the constituent. This intercourse does not involve the publication of *all* proceedings, but only of those which concern the constituents: some are necessarily secret. But even as early as the reign of *Henry VIII.*, the Chancellor, on a prorogation of the parliament, desired the members to report to their electors what had been done.

The parliament has been called omnipotent (a). It has powers of so extensive a nature that many measures, which it is competent for the legislature to introduce, would not be submitted to, if there were no means of explaining their object to the people, or pointing out their necessity. Thus the dissolution of monas-

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

(a) 1 Bla. Comm. 161.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

teries was preceded by a publication of the abuses which were reported to prevail in them. The Exclusion Bill in the reign of *Charles II.*; the Regency Bills, *George III.*; the bills repeatedly passed for suspending the Habeas Corpus Act; the acts for the abolition of slavery, the reform of corporations, the amendment of the poor-laws, are also instances of great legislative changes, to which the people were to be reconciled by circulating among them information, or by the previous publication of reports which were in their nature criminatory. The report which gives rise to the plaintiff's action is another instance in which it was useful to explain, and justify to the public, the introduction of new regulations and additional restraints: one of these, viz. the exclusion of certain books from prisons, occasioned the reference to the plaintiff's book of which he now complains. The inquisitorial powers of the House cannot be exercised with effect, or with justice to accused parties, unless the right of publishing charges be allowed to it. In the case, a few years ago, of a magistrate, *Mr. Kenrick*, against whom certain charges were adduced in the House, the publicity of the investigation was as beneficial to the party himself as to others. The two Houses may enquire into the competency or conduct of a judge, and address the Crown to remove him: yet the public would doubtless be dissatisfied at the removal, unless the grounds of it were made known. Can it be maintained that the judge in such a case might sue the Speaker for directing the publication of the evidence?

As to part of the proceedings, viz. the votes and many of the orders of the House, and the journals of both Houses, there is an absolute necessity for publishing them. All persons are supposed to be cognizant,
and

and are bound to take notice of them. Each House will notice the votes of the other. The orders in reference to private bills, election petitions, &c., have the force of law, and must be published in order that the people may know what they are bound to obey. The journals are *publici juris*. They are evidence in the courts. Any one may inspect and copy them. Those of the Lords are records, and are so treated in all courts, though it may be doubtful as to the Commons' Journals. Will an action lie for criminatory matter entered in these journals? Against whom will it lie, the printer, the Speaker, or the Lord Chancellor? If no action lies for matters contained in such votes, or in the journals, what distinction is there between them, and papers, like the reports, which have become part of the proceedings, and been published separately? Formerly the votes contained every thing, even the speeches of members. Petitions may be, and sometimes are, printed in a supplement to the votes. This very report might have been printed in the supplement, or entered on the journals in consequence of a debate arising on it: and, *ex concessio*, the journals may be printed for public use.

2. Then as to usage. In *Lake v. King* (a) the Court said they would take judicial notice of the usage of parliament, after they had informed themselves of it by enquiry. There is abundant evidence of such usage in the present case. Numerous instances are collected in the Report of the Committee of the House of Commons on this subject (b); and there are many others to the same

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell
Attorney-
General.

(a) 1 *Saund.* 133.

(b) "Report from the select committee on publication of printed papers; with the minutes of evidence, and appendix. Ordered, by the House of Commons, to be printed, 8 *May* 1837." See p. 102. post.

effect.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

effect. The result is this: — Before the invention of printing, other modes must have been resorted to for publishing the proceedings of parliament. Statutes were formerly proclaimed in the county courts. There is no express proof of the usage to publish proceedings before July 30th, 1641; even the practice of printing for the use of members is not traced to an earlier period. From 1641 till 1680, the Speaker from time to time appointed a person exclusively to print and sell specific papers; the form of appointment is seen in *Thompson's Case (a)*. In 1680 a general order was made, and this order has been renewed every session with the exception of 1702, when it was suspended for a short time. This applies only to general votes and proceedings: reports and miscellaneous papers have been printed under distinct orders; nor does it appear that the circulation has been confined to members. The numbers printed have usually far exceeded the number of members; and the sale, though not expressly authorized, has, in fact, always prevailed. If it be objected that the precedent originated with the Long Parliament, it may be answered, that it occurred before *Charles I.* left *London* for the North, during a period when a regular government was subsisting, and statutes were passed which are the law of the land. In 1680 a debate occurred on the subject of printing the votes, when it was unanimously agreed to persist in the practice; Mr. Secretary *Jenkins* alone objecting, not on the ground of illegality, but because it was “a sort of appeal to the people,” and was “against the gravity of this assembly” (*b*). The orders for printing have been in two forms; one directs the printing generally,

(a) 8 *How. St. Tr.* 1.

(b) 4 *Parl. Hist.* 1306.

the other for the use of members. A debate has often arisen on the form to be adopted. Sometimes a limited circulation has been enlarged by a subsequent unlimited order. The expense of printing was formerly defrayed by the sale; since the expense has exceeded the receipt, the Treasury has paid the deficiency. In one way or another the practice of sale has, in fact, prevailed for two centuries; there has never been any difficulty in obtaining copies; and reports, like those on the *South Sea Bubble*, the slave-trade and municipal corporations, wounding the feelings of private persons, and which would have been deemed libels under other circumstances, have circulated without restriction during all that period.

3. Acquiescence is a third proof of the existence of the privilege. Except *Rex v. Williams* (a), no instance of an action or indictment has been shewn until the present plaintiff brought his action. There has been (as *Buller J.* said in *Le Caux v. Eden* (b)) a "universal silence in *Westminster Hall*." The action, not the publishing, is an innovation. It is *primæ impressionis*, and supported by no analogy. What will be the consequences, if the Speaker is to be held liable for such publications? Suppose a resolution of either House were to pass criminating the ministers of the Crown, and were to be published in the minutes, the Lord Chancellor, Speaker, and all others concerned, are liable to action or indictment. If the Speaker refuses to authorise the publication of papers, the House may send him to the *Tower*: if he obeys, the party aggrieved may sue or indict him. The Postage Act, 42 G. 3. (c), by giving

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

(a) 13 How. St. Tr. 1369.

(b) 2 Doug. 602.

(c) Stat. 42 G. 3. c. 63. s. 10. See stats. 7 W. 4. & 1 Vict. c. 32. and c. 34.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

the power of sending votes and proceedings free from postage, recognised their general circulation ; for it was not limited to the case of papers sent to members.

Among the objections which have been urged to this claim of privilege are,

1. That it alters the law of the land, by legitimating the sale of libels. This is a *petitio principii* ; it assumes that the privilege is not the law of the land.

2. That the exercise of the right inflicts a wrong, and that there is no wrong without a remedy. This again is begging the question. It is not a wrong if lawfully done ; and, as to the loss or inconvenience to the party, the law, in pursuit of a greater benefit, does not regard it. For the same reason, there is no redress for an innocent party unjustly indicted, unless malice and want of probable cause be shewn ; no action against a witness for evidence he has given ; nor against counsel for what he says in the discharge of his duty. No action lies for commitment by either House, however arbitrary. The suspension of an officer by his commander is another instance of injury done with impunity. The post-master-general is not liable for the loss of letters. Confidential communications ; literary criticism ; exhibiting articles of the peace containing matter of defamation, though false ; impressment of seamen ; are all examples of loss, pain, or injury, for which the policy of the law provides no remedy by action.

3. It is objected, that this privilege is not among those claimed by the House from the King at the beginning of every parliament. The answer is that the privileges are inherent in the House, and as ancient as the prerogative of the Crown. The demand is a mere form, like
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the consent of the people asked for the Sovereign at the coronation. They were never prayed for by the Speaker until the reign of *Henry IV.*; and, when *James I.* asserted that they were enjoyed of mere grace and favour, the Commons entered a protest on their journals, which was torn out by the King (a).

4. Again, it is objected that the immunity claimed is unnecessary, and that the proceedings would be sufficiently circulated through the same medium as the debates. But there is a distinction between papers and debates. The former are published at discretion, and by the order of the House. The debates are published without authority, the House retaining its power of conducting them in secrecy for the purpose of protecting itself from the interposition of the Crown.

5. It is said that all useful matter may be published without any libel. But the publication of some reports would be impossible if every thing offensive to the feelings were to be expunged. To leave blanks for names would only aggravate the mischief. It has been suggested that injured parties should be recompensed out of the public purse; but that would be an undue encouragement to the bringing of actions; and the suggestion is not applicable where parties have been indicted. The Speaker, for instance, in such a case, could not be indemnified by money for an imprisonment.

6. It is objected that this privilege cannot exist by prescription, being one that must have arisen within time of memory. This argument would deprive the

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

(a) 1 *Com. Journ.* 668. 18th Dec. 1621. 1 *Hats.* 78, 79. And see the authorities referred to in *Holiday v. Pitt*, 2 *Stra.* 986.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

House of all privileges; for its separate existence, as a branch of the legislature, can hardly be traced beyond legal memory; indeed, the jurisdiction of this Court, and the equitable jurisdiction of the Lord Chancellor and of the House of Lords on appeal, either have arisen in times comparatively recent, or rest upon fictions to which a modern origin can be assigned. The power of a court of oyer and terminer to prohibit the publication of its proceedings during a trial, was not established before 1821 (a). The right of a member to be discharged from arrest without a writ of privilege is of recent origin; *Holiday v. Pitt* (b). Even a commitment by the House of Commons for contempt cannot be traced farther back than the reign of *Elizabeth*. Although the lateness of the invention of printing may preclude the defendant from asserting an immemorial right to *print*, yet the right to publish in some mode or other has substantially existed from the earliest times; and this is enough to support the claim. Printing has superseded the old mode of proclamation of statutes by the sheriff (c), and may itself be superseded by some other invention.

7. As to the argument from abuse, all power is capable of being abused. The unquestioned right of commitment for contempt may be so. The privilege of freedom

(a) *Rex v. Clement*, 4 B. & Ald. 218. In the argument in *Rex v. Clement*, referred to, p. 96, note (d), post, it was stated that orders in restraint of publication during the proceedings were made on the trial of *Watson* in K. B., in 1718, and on that of *Brandreth* under the special commission at *Derby* in the same year. See 32 *How. St. Tr.* 81, 109, 766, 779.

(b) 2 *Stra.* 985. But stat. 12 & 13 W. 3. c. 3. was there relied upon.

(c) *Com. Dig. Parliament* (G 23.).

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from arrest may be made a shelter for fraudulent debtors. Freedom of speech may be used as a licence to calumniate. But the constitution presumes that the Houses of parliament, as well as the courts of justice, will usurp no undue authority. That the power has been exercised with moderation may be inferred from the fact that no action has been attempted since the Revolution, until that lately brought by the plaintiff himself (a); at least this inference cannot be denied by those who assert that such publication has always been actionable.

Of the reported cases and authorities on this branch of the subject, the first is *Lake v. King* (b). There an alleged libel was contained in a petition to a committee of grievances, copies of which had been printed and delivered to members of the committee. Though there had been no order of the House, *Hale* C. J., and the rest of the Court, took judicial notice of the order of proceeding and practice of the House, and on that ground held the action not maintainable. On the same principle the order and practice of unlimited distribution entitles the defendant to judgment in the present case. The next case is *Rex v. Williams* (c). Taken in connection with the 9th declaratory clause of the Bill of Rights, 1 W. & M. sess. 2. c. 2., which in effect reversed the decision in that case, it is an authority for the defendants (d). *Rex v. Wright* (e) was an application for

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

(a) *Stockdale v. Hansard*, 2 M. & Rob. 9. See p. 101. note (b), post.

(b) 1 Saund. 131 a.

(c) 13 How. St. Tr. 1369.

(d) The Attorney-General here read a MS. in the handwriting of Sir W. Williams, containing the article referred to, and indorsed, "The part of the Bill of Rights relating to my judgment in *Banco Regis*, and fine in *Trinity*, 1 James 2."

(e) 8 T. R. 293.

a criminal

1839.

—
 STOCKDALE
 against
 HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
 Attorney-
 General.

a criminal information in the case of a libel contained in the report of a secret committee. The same grounds were urged as now, in support of the rule; yet the Court held that the proceedings of neither House could be treated as a libel, and strongly reprobated the decision in *Rex v. Williams* (a). *Rex v. Wright* (b) was a stronger case than the present; for the defendant there had published the report without any authority from the House. In *Rex v. Clement* (c) a court of oyer and terminer made an order forbidding the publication of an unfinished trial, and imposed a fine for the violation of it. On motion for a certiorari to remove the order for the purpose of its being quashed, this Court upheld it. The fine was thereupon estreated into the Exchequer: thence the estreat roll was transmitted into the Duchy Court (the fine belonging to his Majesty in right of the Duchy of *Lancaster*), and a levy made. The defendant was then permitted, by consent of the crown, to file a plea to the estreat, alleging the illegality of the original order, and praying to be discharged from the fine: to this the Attorney-General of the Duchy demurred, and the demurrer was argued (17th April 1828) before the Chancellor of the Duchy, assisted by *Bayley J.* and *Hullock B.*, who adjudged the order and fine to be legal (d). This was an order for the suppression of proceedings; but the publication of them is justifiable *pari ratione*. The principle is, that courts have a right to make such orders (whether to direct or

(a) 13 *How. St. Tr.* 1369.(b) 8 *T. R.* 293.(c) 4 *B. & Ald.* 218.

(d) The Attorney-General read a MS. note of these proceedings, and of the judgment of the Duchy Court.

to prohibit publication) as are felt to be necessary for the due performance of their functions. Nor are precedents wanting of orders for the publication of trials. In *Layer's Case* (a), A. D. 1722, it appears from the debates in the House of Lords (b) that the Judges of this Court directed, and in part revised, a report of the trial. The trial of Lord *Melville* (c) was also published by order of the Lords; and the person appointed for that purpose by the Lord Chancellor obtained an injunction against a bookseller for publishing another report of the same case; *Gurney v. Longman* (d), where earlier instances are cited in support of the usage. *Manley v. Owen*, cited in *Millar v. Taylor* (e), recognizes the exclusive right of the Lord Mayor of *London* to appoint a person to print the sessions papers of the *Old Bailey*, the Lord Mayor being at the head of the commission. The *imprimatur* prefixed to some of the old law reports appears to indicate the same power in the Courts to order publication of their proceedings. The sentences of courts martial are published by being read at the head of every regiment, and entered in the orderly books; such publication being necessary for the due administration of justice by those courts.

Publications for the good of the community have been held privileged in many instances; as the declaration of a court-martial censuring the prosecutor, and delivered by the president to the Judge-advocate, *Jekyll v. Sir John Moore* (g); the report of a military court of enquiry (though not a regular court of justice) transmitted to the

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

(a) 16 *How. Sta. Tri.* 93.(c) 29 *How. St. Tr.* 549.(e) 4 *Burr.* 2329.(b) 8 *Parl. Hist.* 54.(d) 13 *Veney* 493.(g) 2 *New Rep.* 341.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

Commander-in-Chief, *Home v. Bentinck* (a); a story told in a sermon by way of example, from *Fox's Book of Martyrs*, though defamatory of a living person, and untrue, *Greenwood v. Prist* (b). On the like principle, an action has been held not maintainable for matter of crimination inserted in articles of the peace, "not only concerning the petitioners themselves, but many others," *Cutler v. Dixon* (c). Privilege has in like manner been extended to defamatory matter in an affidavit exhibited in Court, *Astley v. Younge* (d); and to a complaint against an officer in the army, addressed by his creditor to the Secretary-at-war, *Fairman v. Ives* (e), where *Cleaver v. Sarraude* (g) was recognized. In *Rex v. Baillie* (h) a criminal information was refused for a statement, submitted to the Governors of *Greenwich Hospital*, accusing persons connected with its management. A writ of forger of false deeds sued out against a peer was held not actionable, the suit being actually in a course of prosecution, *Lord Beauchamps v. Croft* (i), where *Buckley v. Wood* (k), a case similar in principle, is referred to in note (87). No action lies for an advertisement injurious to character, but published bonâ fide to obtain information; *Delany v. Jones* (l). In *Blackburn v. Blackburn* (m) a letter addressed to the pastor and deacons of an Independent congregation, impeaching the moral character of one of their ministers, was held to be a libel; but it is clear that, if the statement had been made bonâ

(a) 2 Brod. & B. 130.

(b) Cro. Jac. 91. (cited in *Brooke v. Montague*); S. C. cited in *Rex v. Williams*, 13 How. St. Tr. 1387.

(c) 4 Rep. 14 b.

(d) 2 Burr. 807.

(e) 5 B. & Ald. 642.

(g) 1 Camp. 268.

(h) 21 How. St. Tr. 1.

(i) *Dyer*, 285 a.

(k) 4 Rep. 14 b.

(l) 4 Esp. N. P. C. 191.

(m) 4 Bing. 395.

fide and without malice, it would have been held privileged. And, if communications of this nature, addressed to persons interested in them, are privileged, can it be said that a representation on so important a subject as that of prisons, delivered by the members of the House of Commons to the commons, their constituents, is actionable as a libel? A party may indeed be injured by the result of such a publication; but (as was before observed) there may be a loss without any right to compensation at law. Thus in *Stockdale v. Onwhyn* (a) it was decided that the publisher of a scandalous work could not recover damages against a person who pirated it; and in *Poplett v. Stockdale* (b) it was held that the printer of the same work could not recover against the publisher on a contract for printing it, the defence being its corrupt character.*

The plaintiff in this case cannot demand that the privilege claimed by the House should be established by proofs of its exercise. It is asserted on the same principle upon which *Wilmot J.*, in *Rex v. Almon* (c), maintained the right of the common law Courts to attach for contempt, as necessarily incident to their constitution, and coeval with their first foundation. On that principle, also, the Judicial committee of the Privy Council, in *Beaumont v. Barrett* (d), upheld the power of the House of Assembly of *Jamaica* to commit for publishing a libel in breach of their privileges; and doubtless it would in like manner have recognized their authority to order a publication which they deemed to be for the general advantage, on the ground that whatever is re-

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

(a) 5 B. & C. 173.

(b) 2 Car. & P. 198.

(c) *Wilmot's Opinions and Judgments*, 254. And see the judgment of Lord Ellenborough in *Burdett v. Abbot*, 14 East, 137, 151.

(d) 1 Moore's Rep. Priv. Council. 59, 76.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

quisite or beneficial for a legislative body in the exercise of its functions inherently belongs to it, and the right need not be supported by proof of user, or by prescription.

No instance can be found in which a publication by authority of either House of Parliament has been considered a subject of prosecution or civil action. *Rex v. Lord Abingdon (a)* is not such an instance. The paper there published by the defendant (a speech which had been read by him in the House of Lords) was issued without the sanction of the House; no privilege claimed by them was involved in the prosecution. So in *Rex v. Creevey (b)* the publication (of a member's speech) was not authorized by the House, but, on the contrary, was against its standing order. Lord *Ellenborough* there, referring to *Rex v. Wright (c)*, said "I will not here wait to consider whether that could be strictly called a proceeding in parliament. What was printed for the use of the members was certainly a privileged publication; but I am not prepared to say that to circulate a copy of that which was published for the use of the members, if it contained matter of an injurious tendency to the character of an individual, was legitimate and could not be made the ground of prosecution. I should hesitate to pronounce it a proceeding in parliament in the terms given to some of the Judges in that case. But it is not necessary to say whether that be so or not; because this does not range itself within the principle of that case. How can this be considered as a proceeding of the Commons' House of Parliament? A member of that House has spoken what he thought

(a) 1 *Esp. N. P. C.* 226. : *S. C.* cited in *Rex v. Creevey*, 1 *M. & S.* 274.

(b) 1 *M. & S.* 273.

(c) 6 *T. R.* 293.

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material, and what he was at liberty to speak in his character as a member of that House. So far he was privileged: but he has not stopped there; but, unauthorized by the House, has chosen to publish an account of that speech in what he has pleased to call a more corrected form; and in that publication has thrown out reflections injurious to the character of an individual."

The only remaining authority is the dictum of Lord Denman C. J. in the former case of *Stockdale v. Hansard* (a). In that action of libel, it was urged for the defendants at nisi prius that the matter complained of was privileged, being contained in a report published by order of the House of Commons. His Lordship held that the order was no protection; but the question was not fully discussed; and, as the defendants had a verdict on the plea of justification, there was no further occasion to contest the point. But, as it now appears, the great body of authorities is adverse to his Lordship's ruling (b).

Since

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

(a) 2 M. & Rob. 9. S. C. in the Report of the Select Committee on publication of printed papers, 8th May 1837. Appendix to Minutes of Evidence, No. 1. p. 65.

(b) The pleas in the above case of *Stockdale v. Hansard* and others were, 1. Not Guilty. 2. A justification, alleging that the facts stated in the libel were part of a report made by the Inspectors of prisons, and asserting the truth of that statement. Sir J. Campbell, Attorney-General, for the Defendants, insisted on the latter defence; but he also gave proof that the alleged libel was published and sold in pursuance of resolutions of the House of Commons, and contended, therefore, in the first instance, that the publication was privileged by their authority.—Lord Denman C. J. said, in summing up: "On the third ground, namely, that this is a privileged publication, I am bound to say, as it comes before me as a question of law for my direction, that I entirely disagree from the law laid down by the learned counsel for the defendant. I am not aware of the existence in this country of any body whatever that can privilege any servant of theirs to

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

Since the trial of that cause, the question of privilege, as applied to the point now before the Court, has been referred to a committee of the House of Commons, appointed without reference to party; they have reported, with only one dissentient voice, in favour of the protection claimed by these defendants (a); and their report has been adopted by the House of Commons. An opinion so delivered and adopted is entitled to weight in a Court of law. And the Court will remember the

publish libels of any individual. Whatever arrangements may be made between the House of Commons and any publisher in their employ, I am of opinion, that the publisher who publishes that in his public shop, and especially for money, which may be injurious, and possibly ruinous to any one of the king's subjects, must answer in a Court of justice to that subject if he challenge him for a libel, and I wish to say so emphatically and distinctly, because I think that if, upon the first opportunity that arose in a Court of justice for questioning that point, it were left unsatisfactorily explained, the Judge who sat there might become an accomplice in the destruction of the liberties of the country, and expose every individual who lives in it to a tyranny that no man ought to submit to." His Lordship then said, referring to *Rex v. Wright*, 8 T. R. 293, that that case was not applicable, and was no authority to prevent his stating the law as he now laid it down. He added: "Therefore my direction to you, subject to a question hereafter, is, that the fact of the House of Commons having directed Messrs. Hansard to publish all their parliamentary reports, is no justification for them or for any bookseller who publishes a parliamentary report containing a libel against any man." *Report from the Select Committee*, &c. (see p. 89, note (b), ante). *Appendix to Minutes of Evidence*, No. 1. p. 68. Verdict for the plaintiff on the first issue; for the defendants on the second.

(a) The Attorney-General stated that the committee appointed was as follows:—Lord Viscount Howick, Sir Robert Peel, Mr. Attorney-General, Mr. C. W. Williams Wynn, Mr. Tancred, Sir William Follett, Mr. Charles Villiers, Sir Frederick Pollock, Mr. Roebuck, Lord Stanley, Sir George Strickland, Sir Robert Harry Inglis, Mr. Serjeant Wilde, Sir George Clerk, Mr. O'Connell. And that the resolution in favour of the privilege was agreed to by Sir G. Strickland, Sir F. Pollock, Mr. C. W. Williams Wynn, Sir W. W. Follett, Lord Stanley, Sir G. Clerk, Mr. Serjeant Wilde, Mr. Attorney-General, Mr. O'Connell, and Sir R. Peel: dissentiente Sir R. H. Inglis.

advice

advice of Lord *Bacon*, to a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, on his appointment: "That you contain the jurisdiction of the Court within the ancient mere-stones, without removing the mark" (a); and the dictum of *Abbott C. J.* in *Ex parte Cowan* (b): "We wish not to be understood as giving any sanction to the supposed authority of this Court to direct a prohibition to the Lord Chancellor sitting in bankruptcy." "If ever the question shall arise, the Court, whose assistance may be invoked to correct an excess of jurisdiction in another, will, without doubt, take care not to exceed its own."

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Sir J. Campbell,
Attorney-
General.

Curwood, in reply.

Curwood,
in reply.
May 28th.

The authorities cited for the defendants establish the jurisdiction of this Court to deal with questions of privilege. In the earliest cases, the House of Commons did not even venture to decide on their undoubted privileges, but appealed to the Crown or to the House of Lords, who themselves took advice of the Judges. *Thorp's Case* (c) and others are instances of this. In early periods of history, the legislative and judicial characters of parliament are faintly distinguished, and the "law of parliament" is often the act of the united legislature. With the power and popularity of the Commons, the privilege assumed by them has been extended and strengthened; but they have never set themselves in opposition to the law with success or credit. *Wilkes's Case* (d) was an example of such a conflict: there, to use the words of Lord *Chatham*, "under pretence of declaring

(a) Speech of Lord *Bacon* to *Hutton J.*, *Lord Bacon's Works*, vol. iv. p. 508. ed. 1803.

(b) 3 B. & Ald. 130.

(c) 1 Hats. Fr. 28. S. C. 13 Rep. 64.

(d) See p. 66, *antè*.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Curwood,
in reply.

law, the Commons made it, and united in the same persons the offices of legislature, party, and judge" (a). So here, the Commons, while they profess to declare the law of parliament, are in fact depriving the subject of his right of action, as was attempted in *Ashby v. White* (b). It is impossible to avoid taking cognizance of privilege; for until enquiry and examination it cannot appear whether the case involves privilege or not. There is no power to procure a certificate to be made by the Speaker, as the recorder certifies the customs of *London*. If privilege be part of the law, this Court not only may notice, but is bound to know it. The doctrine, that the power inherent in the whole parliament belongs also to each component estate, is absurd, for it would give to each a distinct power of legislation. The conclusiveness of the judgment of Courts of exclusive jurisdiction is not denied; but the House of Commons has little, if any, jurisdiction, in the strict sense. It has none of the *indicia* or attributes of a Court of justice. It cannot even examine witnesses on oath. It cannot adjudicate between *A.* and *B.* Even Lord *Kenyon*, in *Rex v. Wright* (c), relied upon by the defendant, admits the existence of cases in which this Court would dispute the assumption of privilege. In *Burdett v. Abbot* (d) Lord *Ellenborough* makes a similar concession. Whether the doctrine, established in that case, that a commitment for contempt is not examinable by any other Court, be well founded, may be doubted and hereafter controverted; but on this occasion there is no need to dispute it. The distinction between inci

(a) Debate on the Address, 1770. 16 *Parl. Hist.* 659.

(b) 2 *Lord Ray.* 938. S. C. 14 *How St. Tr.* 695.

(c) 8 *T. R.* 293.

(d) See 14 *East*, 128.

dental and direct cognizance is obscure; the more intelligible rule is, that the Court must notice privileges whenever they come judicially before it. It is objected that the privileges of the House will be submitted to the decision of courts of quarter sessions, county courts, and other inferior jurisdictions. But, if privilege be part of the law, why should such courts be deemed disqualified from forming an opinion upon that as well as upon any other matter of law? Why is the same person to be presumed ignorant of parliamentary privileges when he presides at sessions, and cognizant of them as soon as he enters the House of Commons? It is urged that members must have free intercourse with their constituents, and every facility for inviting and communicating information. But to circulate calumny, and prohibit actions for it, cannot be a fit expedient for the discovery of truth or the diffusion of correct intelligence. With regard to past usage, it is worthy of observation, that one of the earliest instances of this appeal by the House to the people was on the occasion of raising troops to be employed against the King. The practice of unlimited publication for sale, openly and avowedly, only began as late as 1836; and already two actions have been the result. There is no pretence for putting this case on the footing of a confidential communication. What foundation of necessity, or what confidential character, can be discerned in the publication to all mankind of a report on the state of *Newgate Prison*? It is argued that Courts are not to presume that powers of this kind will be abused. But this assertion of the legal impossibility of abuse is disproved by authentic records, which shew that abuses have been great and frequent. Instances have been already enumerated, and the

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANBARD.

Curwood,
in reply.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Curwood,
in reply.

the number might be easily increased (a). And what security has the subject against the recurrence of scenes like those which occurred in the case of *Shirley v. Fagg* (b), where the two Houses, seised *per mi* and *per tout* of the whole inherent powers of parliament (according to the doctrine of Sir *Robert Atkyns*), made contradictory declarations of law, leaving the subject at a loss to know whose law of parliament was to be held authentic and conclusive? These absurdities and mischiefs are to be remedied only by declaring the law of parliament subject to the general law of the land, and holding the privileges of the House to be (as the prerogative of the Crown ever has been) within the cognizance of the ordinary Courts.

Cur. adv. vult.

The learned Judges, in *Trinity* term (*May* 31st), 1839, delivered judgment *seriatim*.

(a) The following case in the 1st vol. of the Commons' Journals, pp. 438, 440, 441, (also shortly stated in 1 *Hats. Pr.* 132.) was here cited:—

"*Die Jovis* 14 *Junii* 1610. Sir *George Moore*. — That *D. Steward's* man, privileged, was, for begetting a woman with child. — The warrant, signed by justices before the parliament, executed now, — Whether privilege or no? Committed to the committee for privileges.

"*Die Saturni* 16 *Junii* 1610. Sir *Jo. Hollis*, — Touching Mr. *D. Steward*. — Constable had a warrant under four justices of peace. —

"That he should have privilege; the parties to be discharged; and consideration after to be had, who shall pay it."

"*Die Mercurii* 20 *Junii* 1610. — Mr. *D. Steward*, — touching the arrest of his servant: — Moveth for the charges. Whether the reputed father, being taken by a justice's warrant, shall pay; or the constable that executed the warrant. — The constable could not discharge him. — Q. for the constable: — Resolved, not to pay it; but, the reputed father."

(b) 6 *How. St. Tr.* 1121.

Lord

Lord DENMAN C. J. This was an action for a publication defaming the plaintiff's character, by imputing that he had published an obscene libel.

The plea was, that the inspectors of prisons made a report to the secretary of state, in which improper books were said to be permitted in the prison of *Newgate*; that the Court of Aldermen wrote an answer to that part of the report, and the inspectors replied repeating the statements, and adding that the improper books were published by the plaintiff. That all these documents were printed by and under orders from the House of Commons, who had come to a resolution to publish and sell all the papers they should print for the use of the members, and who also resolved, declared, and adjudged, that the power of publishing such of their reports, votes, and proceedings as they thought conducive to the public interest, is *an essential incident* to the due performance of the functions of parliament, *more especially &c.*

The plea, it is contended, establishes a good defence to the action on various grounds.

1. The grievance complained of appears to be an act done by order of the House of Commons, a court superior to any court of law, and none of whose proceedings are to be questioned in any way.

This principle the learned counsel for the defendant repeatedly avowed in his long and laboured argument; but it does not appear to be put forward in its simple terms in the report that was published by a former House of Commons.

It is a claim for an arbitrary power to authorise the commission of any act whatever, on behalf of a body
which

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Lord Denman
C. J.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Lord Denman
C. J.

which in the same argument is admitted not to be the supreme power in the state.

The supremacy of parliament, the foundation on which the claim is made to rest, appears to me completely to overturn it, because the House of Commons is not the parliament, but only a co-ordinate and component part of the parliament. That sovereign power can make and unmake the laws; but the concurrence of the three legislative estates is necessary; the resolution of any one of them cannot alter the law, or place any one beyond its control. The proposition is therefore wholly untenable, and abhorrent to the first principles of the constitution of *England*.

2. The next defence involved in this plea is, that the defendant committed the grievance by order of the House of Commons in a case of privilege, and that each House of Parliament is the sole judge of its own privileges. This last proposition requires to be first considered. For, if the Attorney-General was right in contending, as he did more than once in express terms, that the House of Commons, by claiming any thing as its privilege, thereby makes it a matter of privilege, and also that its own decision upon its own claim is binding and conclusive, then plainly this Court cannot proceed in any enquiry into the matter, and has nothing else to do but declare the claim well founded because it has been made.

This is the form in which I understand the committee of a late House of Commons to have asserted the privileges of both Houses of Parliament: and we are informed that a large majority of that House adopted the assertion. It is not without the utmost respect and deference

deference that I proceed to examine what has been promulgated by such high authority: most willingly would I decline to enter upon an enquiry which may lead to my differing from that great and powerful assembly. But, when one of my fellow subjects presents himself before me in this Court, demanding justice for an injury, it is not at my option to grant or withhold redress; I am bound to afford it if the law declares him entitled to it. I must then ascertain how the law stands: and, whatever defence may be made for the wrongdoer, I must examine its validity. The learned counsel for the defendant contends for his legal right to be protected against all consequences of acting under an order issued by the House of Commons, in conformity with what that House asserts to be its privilege: nor can I avoid then the question whether the defendant possesses that legal right or not.

Parliament is said to be supreme; I most fully acknowledge its supremacy. It follows, then, as before observed, that neither branch of it is supreme when acting by itself. It is also said that the privilege of each house is the privilege of the whole parliament. In one sense I agree to this; because whatever impedes the proper action of either impedes those functions which are necessary for the performance of their joint duties. All the essential parts of a machine must be in order before it can work at all. But it by no means follows that the opinion that either house may entertain of the extent of its own privileges is correct, or its declaration of them binding. In the course of the argument, the privileges of the Commons were said to belong to them for their protection against encroachment by the Lords.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Lord Denman
C. J.

The

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Lord Denman
C. J.

The fact of an attempt at encroachment may, then, be imagined; and we must also suppose that the Commons would resist it. In such a case, the claims set up by the two houses being inconsistent, both could not be well founded, and an instance would occur of adverse opinions and declarations, while the real privilege, whenever it is ascertained, would certainly be the inherent right of parliament itself.

The argument here became historical; and we were told that, at the early period when *privilege was settled*, the three estates, assembled, and embracing all the power of the state, never would have left their privileges at the mercy of a very inferior tribunal, especially when the King's Judges were dependent on the Crown, and removeable at its pleasure. I cannot accede to the inference. If in those early times the Lords and Commons had felt the enlightened jealousy of dependent judges which is here supposed, they would not have left them in that state of dependence, equally dangerous to the character of the judges and to the just rights of themselves and of all their constituents. But we have no proof whatever of the constitution of this country being framed on abstract principles: there cannot be a doubt that it adapted itself to the exigencies of the several occasions that arose, and gradually grew into that form which the ends of good government require. But, while I dispute the fact of privileges being settled in the *aula regia*, or any other supposed constituent assembly, on any given principle, or indeed at all, I am far from believing that the Judges ever had, or ought to have, by law, the smallest power over parliament or either house of parliament. The independence of parliament is the corner stone of our free constitution.

constitution. The Judges who invaded it in the reign of *James* the First and his son have justly shared with those who betrayed the rights of the people in the case of ship money the abhorrence of all enlightened men. But a mean submissiveness to power has not been always confined to the Judges; the same dispositions belonged to Parliament itself, and to both houses. When we remember the sentence pronounced against an unfortunate gentleman of the name of *Floyde* (a), for a slight offence, if it were one, against King *James* the First, in speaking of his daughter and son in law, we shall allow that the two houses had as little sense of independence as of justice. The Commons resolved, declared, and adjudged that his fortune should be confiscated, and his body tortured, his name degraded, and himself imprisoned for life. The Lords rebuked the invasion of their privileges of punishing, for which the Commons humbly apologised; but the sentence was carried into full effect: and can any one believe that these two houses, thus vying in obsequiousness and cruelty, could entertain good views on the constitutional independence of parliament? (b)

Another reason for denying to the courts of law all power in matters of privilege was said to flow from their same supposed ancient jealousy of the Lords. "The Commons never would have tolerated such an enquiry, because the decision might then have come to be reviewed on appeal by the co-ordinate and rival assembly;" yet the Attorney-General informed us, almost in the same breath, that the appellate jurisdiction of the Lords was of recent date, that it originally belonged to the whole par-

1839.

 STOCKDALE
 against
 HANSARD.

 Lord Denman
 C.J
(a) 2 *How. St. Tr.* 1153.(b) See the debates, 8 *How. St. Tr.* 92 et seq. And the note at p. 92.

liament,

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Lord Denman
C. J.

liament, and that it was long warmly contested with adverse declarations of privilege by the House of Commons. The case of *Burdett v. Abbot* (a) in 1810 was an action brought against the Speaker himself, for an act done by him in parliament by order of the House of Commons. The plaintiff questioned his right, and, by seeking redress in this court, eventually submitted their privilege to the decision of the House of Lords. At this very moment the defendant, as acting by order of the House of Commons, prays our judgment in this question of privilege, and the House of Commons instructs the Attorney-General to appear as his counsel before us. He tells us, indeed, that we can only decide in his favour; but, if we do, the House of Lords may reverse that judgment next week. Such is the practice of the nineteenth century: yet we are gravely told that in the dark ages of our history the Commons were too enlightened to allow any discussion of their privileges in any court whose judgment may be questioned in the Lords.

But it is said that the courts of law must be excluded from all interference with transactions in which the name of privilege has been mentioned, because they have no means of informing themselves what these privileges are. They are well known, it seems, to the two houses, and to every member of them, as long as he continues a member; but the knowledge is as incommunicable as the privileges to all beyond that pale. It might be presumption to ask how this knowledge may be obtained, had not the Attorney-General read to us all he had to urge on the subject from works accessible to all, and familiar to every man of education. The argument here seems to

(a) 14 *East*, 1.

run in a circle. The courts cannot be entrusted with any matter connected with privilege, because they know nothing about privilege; and this ignorance must be perpetual, because the law has taken such matters out of their cognisance. The old text writers, indeed, affirm the law and custom of parliament, although a part of the *lex terræ* to be, “*ab omnibus quæsitâ, à multis ignoratâ.*” This and other phrases, repeated in the law books, have thrown a kind of mystery over the subject, which has kept aloof the application of reason and common sense. Lord *Holt* (a) in terms denied this presumption of ignorance, and asserted the right and duty of the courts to know the law of parliament, because the law of the land on which they are bound to decide. Other judges, without directly asserting the proposition, have constantly acted upon it; and it was distinctly admitted by the Attorney-General in the course of his argument. I do not know to whom he alluded as disputing the existence of any parliamentary privilege; no such opinion has come under my notice. That parliament enjoys privileges of the most important character, no person capable of the least reflection can doubt for a moment. Some are common to both houses, some peculiar to each; all are essential to the discharge of their functions. If they were not the fruit of deliberation in *aulâ regiâ*, they rest on the stronger ground of a necessity which became apparent at least as soon as the two houses took their present position in the state.

Thus the privilege of having their debates unquestioned, though denied when the members began to speak their minds freely in the time of Queen *Elizabeth*,

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Lord Denman
C. J.

(a) See *Reg. v. Paty*, 2 *Ld. Ray.* 1114, 1115. And the judgment of Lord *Holt* in that case, ed. 1837, p. 54. Also *Ashby v. White*, 2 *Ld. Ray.* 956.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Lord Denman
C. J.

and punished in its exercise both by that princess and her two successors, was soon clearly perceived to be indispensable and universally acknowledged. By consequence, whatever is done within the walls of either assembly must pass without question in any other place. For speeches made in parliament by a member to the prejudice of any other person, or hazardous to the public peace, that member enjoys complete impunity. For any paper signed by the Speaker by order of the House, though to the last degree calumnious, or even if it brought personal suffering upon individuals, the Speaker cannot be arraigned in a court of justice. But, if the calumnious or inflammatory speeches should be reported and published, the law will attach responsibility on the publisher. So, if the Speaker, by authority of the house, order an illegal act, though that authority shall exempt *him* from question, his order shall no more justify the person who executed it than King *Charles's* warrant for levying ship-money could justify his revenue officer.

The privilege of committing for contempt is inherent in every deliberative body invested with authority by the constitution. But, however flagrant the contempt, the House of Commons can only commit till the close of the existing session. Their privilege to commit is not better known than this limitation of it. Though the party should deserve the severest penalties, yet, his offence being committed the day before a prorogation, if the house ordered his imprisonment but for a week, every court in *Westminster Hall* and every judge of all the courts would be bound to discharge him by *habeas corpus*.

Nothing is more undoubted than the exclusive privilege of the people's representatives in respect to grants of money,

money, and the imposition of taxes. But, if their care of a branch of it should induce a vote that their messenger should forcibly enter and inspect the cellars of all residents in *London* possessing more than a certain income, and if some citizen should bring an action of trespass, has any lawyer yet said that the Speaker's warrant would justify the breaking and entering?

The Commons of *England* are not invested with more of power and dignity by their legislative character than by that which they bear as the grand inquest of the nation. All the privileges that can be required for the energetic discharge of the duties inherent in that high trust are conceded without a murmur or a doubt. We freely admit them in all their extent and variety; but, if, on a resolution of guilt voted by themselves, this grand inquest should not accuse but condemn, should mistake their right of initiating a charge for the privilege of passing sentence and awarding execution, will it be denied that their agent would incur the guilt of murder?

I will speak but of one other privilege, the privilege from personal arrest, which is both undoubted and indispensable. A distinction has been sometimes taken, but, in my opinion, does not exist in law, between one class of privileges as necessary for performing the functions of parliament, and another as a personal boon; both classes are, as I apprehend, conferred on grounds of public policy alone. The proceedings of parliament would be liable to continual interruption at the pleasure of individuals, if every one who claimed to be a creditor could restrain the liberty of the members. In early times their very horses and servants might require protection from seizure under legal process, as necessary to secure their own attendance; but, when this privilege was strained to the intolerable length of preventing the

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Lord Denman
C. J.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Lord Denman
C. J.

service of legal process, or the progress of a cause once commenced against any member during the sitting of parliament, or of threatening any who should commit the smallest trespass upon a member's land, though in assertion of a clear right, as breakers of the privileges of parliament, these monstrous abuses might have called for the interference of the law, and compelled the courts of justice to take a part. Suppose, then, in the celebrated case of Admiral *Griffin* (a), that one who claimed a right of fishing in his ponds had brought an action here against the officer who seized him, who justified the imprisonment under the Speaker's warrant, alleging his high contempt in daring to fish in a member's pond near *Plymouth*; would not the Court of Queen's Bench have been bound to enquire as to the privilege, and to declare that it did not and could not extend to such a case? I desire to put the further question, whether the decision of such cases could be at all varied by the house declaring, with whatever of solemnity or menace, that it was the ancient and undoubted privilege of parliament to do each and every one of the abusive acts enumerated.

Examples might be multiplied without limit; but the examples are said to be abuses, and to prove nothing against the use. It is also urged that abuse is not to be presumed; that the only appeal lies to public opinion, and that outrages like these would authorise resistance and amount to a dissolution of the government. I answer, that cases of abuse must be supposed, to test the truth of the principle now under discussion. I say, farther, that it is only in cases of abuse that the principle is required; that, though the maxim be true, *ab abusu ad usum non valet consequentia*, it cannot apply where an abuse is directly charged and offered to be proved:

(a) P. 14. *antè*: in which case four persons were committed.

that

that no presumption can be made against a fact established or admitted. Need I go on to add, that the appeal to public opinion, however successful, comes too late after the injury has been effected, and that to talk to an innocent sufferer of his right to consider the social compact as broken towards him, to throw off his allegiance, and resist the outrage perpetrated in the name of parliament, is language at least novel in a court of law?

We were, however, pressed with numerous authorities, which were supposed to establish that questions of privilege are in no case examinable at law. *Thorp's Case* (a) was, as usual, first cited. The facts were, that the lords, in *Edward* the Fourth's time, consulted the judges respecting the privilege then claimed by a member of the Commons' House, and the judges at first declined to answer, — facts totally inconsistent with an anterior settlement of parliamentary privilege, especially on the footing of the jealousy felt by the Commons towards the Lords and the judicial authorities. The judges did ultimately waive their objection to declaring an opinion on a question of privilege; they declared it in parliament, and by parliament it was adopted (b). Yet their reluctance to assume, in the first instance, the delicate office of interfering with the privilege of parliament, even at the request of the House of Lords, and the respectful and submissive language in which they, the interpreters of the law, avowed their deference to those

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.
Lord Denman
C. J.

(a) 1 *Hats. Pr.* 28., from 5 *Rot. Parl.* 239. *S. C.* 13 *Rep.* 63. See 4 *Inst.* 15; 14 *East*, 25.

(b) The proceeding in parliament seems (as to the detention of *Thorp*) to have been contrary to the suggestion of the Judges. See the statement of the case at p. 31 of *Hats. Pr.* Vol. i. And Mr. *Hatsell's* comments at pp. 33, 34. See *Ferrers's Case*, 1 *Hats. Pr.* 53. *Anon. Moore*, 57. 1 *Hats. Pr.* 58.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Lord Denman
C. J.,

who make it, have been construed into a judicial decision that in their own courts they would decline to enforce that very law when made, if either House of parliament should obstruct and overbear it by setting up the most preposterous claim under the name of privilege. Often, undoubtedly, similar expressions have fallen from the judges; but they must be modified by the cases in which they occurred. A sentence from C. J. *North's* judgment in *Barnardiston v. Soame* (a) was read at the bar. The question being, whether an action on the case lay against the sheriff at common law for a double return of members to parliament, which he strongly denied, he said, in the course of his elaborate argument, "If we shall allow general remedies (as an action upon the case is) to be applied to cases relating to the parliament, we shall at last invade privilege of parliament, and that great privilege of judging of their own privileges." These words appear, at first sight, of extensive import indeed; but when we refer them to the subject then in hand, which was an action against a sheriff for his conduct in a parliamentary election, we shall perceive that they are far from making the large concession supposed. The right of determining the election of their own members is one of the peculiar privileges of the assembled Commons, like all other proceedings for their own internal regulation. With respect to them, I freely admit that the courts have no right to interfere, nor, perhaps, any regular means of obtaining information. How they must deal with such points when actually brought before them, is another consideration. But the possible inconvenience that might arise from permitting the action against the sheriff, if the courts should come into conflict with parliament in those points

(a) 6 *How. St. Tr.* 1109.

of unquestionable privilege in which parliament must have the sole power of declaring what its privilege is, furnishes no shadow of an argument for the proposition, that whatever subject either house declares matter of privilege instantly becomes such to the exclusion of all enquiry by the Courts.

We were also reminded of the disparaging terms applied by the Judges to their own authority, when *Alexander Murray*, in 1751, was brought before this Court by *habeas corpus* (a). I have obtained a copy of the return, setting out a commitment by the House of Commons for a contempt in general terms: but it is not unworthy of remark, that *Foster J.* founds his judgment on what was said by Lord *Holt*, and treats it as a commitment for a contempt in the face of the House. The fact was so, but the return did not state it: and Lord *Ellenborough* observed, in *Burdett v. Abbot* (b), that *Holt* did not so limit the power of commitment for contempts. Twenty years later, *Brass Crosby*, Lord Mayor of *London*, brought himself before the Court of Common Pleas by *habeas corpus* (c). The lieutenant of the Tower returned, for the cause of his imprisonment, an adjudication by the House of Commons, that the Lord Mayor, being a member of the House, having signed a warrant for the commitment of a messenger of the House for having executed a warrant of the Speaker, issued by order of the House, was guilty of a breach of privilege of the House. The Lord Mayor had manifestly committed a breach of privilege; the grounds of it are fully set out in the Speaker's warrant; nothing could, therefore, be less needful or less judicial than the wide assertion of privilege that was volunteered by the Chief Justice. Yet,

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Lord Denman
C. J.

(a) 1 *Wils.* 299.(b) 14 *East*, 111, 148.(c) 3 *Wils.* 188. *S. C.* 2 *W. Bl.* 754.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Lord Denman
C. J.

after all that he said respecting the indefinite powers of parliament, his decision rests on the simple ground that all courts have power to commit for contempt Sir *W. Blackstone* clearly shewed, on the same occasion, that the return was good on acknowledged principles of law, and declared the power then exercised to be one which the House of Commons only possesses in common with the Courts of *Westminster Hall*. But it must be confessed that his remarks on the state of public feeling rather evince the spirit of a political partisan than the calmness and independence which become the judicial seat. We know now, as a matter of history, that the House of Commons was at that time engaged, in unison with the crown, in assailing the just rights of the people. Yet that learned judge proclaimed his unqualified resolution to uphold the House of Commons, even though it should have abused its power; rebuked the murmur and complaint which its proceedings had justly excited; deprecated as the last of misfortunes, and in terms which might lead to a supposition that he was at liberty to withdraw from it, a contest between the Courts of justice and either House of Parliament, and, with reference to objections pressed against the mode of executing the warrant, worked himself up at length to the untenable position: "It is our duty to *presume* the orders of that House, and *their execution*, are according to law."

The two cases last alluded to were disposed of by the Courts, without taking time to consider, and even without hearing counsel on one side. In the former, the Chief Justice *Lee* took no part, having been absent when *Alexander Murray* was brought here. I do not mean to insinuate that a longer consideration would have been likely to produce a different result, being
satisfied

satisfied that the decision itself was right. But I do believe that, if the Court had deliberated and paused, they would have employed more cautious language, and abstained from laying down premises so much wider than their conclusion required. Lord *Ellenborough* (a), when pressed with their authority, distinctly refused to bow to it, corrected some phrases ascribed to several judges in the reports of both cases, and placed a limitation on the doctrine laid down by Chief Justice *De Grey*, without which it would have yielded to either House of Parliament the same arbitrary power over men's liberty that the doctrine of ship-money would have lodged in the Crown over their property.

Lord *Kenyon* was cited as holding language of the same self-denying import in *Rex v. Wright* (b), where Mr. *Horne Tooke* had applied for a criminal information against a bookseller, for publishing a copy of the report made by a committee of the House of Commons, which was supposed to convey a charge of high treason against Mr. *Tooke*, after he had been tried for that crime and acquitted. This application for leave to set the extraordinary power of the Court in motion for the punishment of misdemeanors is at all times received with the utmost caution: the Court, in exercising its discretion, often refuses the indulgence prayed. *Lawrence J.* thought that the party was not libelled. "It is said, that this report charges him with being guilty of high treason, notwithstanding the verdict of a jury had ascertained his innocence; but that is not the fair import of the paragraph." This opinion, for which the learned Judge gives his reasons, was alone sufficient to discharge the rule. But he proceeded to make other observations. He likened the publi-

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Lord Denman
C. J.

(a) See 14 *East*, 111, 113.(b) 8 *T. R.* 293.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Lord Denman
C. J.

cation of this report to that of a proceeding in a court of justice, and said he was not aware of that having been deemed a libel. To what degree such publications are justifiable, is still a question open to some doubt; there can be none, that, without direct personal malice, it could not properly expose the publisher to a criminal information. *Lawrence J.* remarked accordingly, "The proceedings of courts of justice are daily published, some of which highly reflect upon individuals; but I do not know that an information was ever granted against the publishers of them." He then remarks, with much good sense and liberality, that it is also greatly for the public benefit that the proceedings in parliament should be generally circulated; and though he adds "they would be deprived of that advantage if no person could publish their proceedings without being punished as a libeller," still he speaks with reference to the case before him, giving his reasons for concurring in the discharge of the rule for a criminal information, but not affecting to decide a legal question which did not arise.

Grose J. laid down no legal proposition in the judgment delivered by him. Lord *Kenyon* certainly did: as certainly it was extrajudicial, and is open to investigation. The proposition asserted by him was, that no proceeding of either house of parliament could be a libel. But, with the highest reverence for that most learned Judge, I must be allowed to observe that he here confounds the nature of the composition with the occasion of publishing it. Matter defamatory and calumnious, which would therefore found legal proceedings for a libel, may be innocently published by one who has legal authority to do so. His Lordship says, "This is a proceeding by one branch of the legislature, and, therefore,

therefore, we cannot enquire into it." If this be true, one branch of the legislature has power to overrule the law. Lord *Kenyon* felt this, and denied the existence of such a power, adding, "I do *not* say that cases may not be put, in which we would enquire whether or not the House of Commons were justified in any particular measure." We cannot fail to see that the one sentence is in direct contradiction to the other. The latter puts an end to the claim to authorise any act without the agents being subjected to any enquiry. It equally overthrows that doctrine of the subordination of Courts, which would condemn the first criminal tribunal of *England* to silence and submission if either house should unhappily be induced to give their warrant to a crime.

Lord *Kenyon* supposes a case, in which the Court would "undoubtedly" pay no attention "to an injunction from the House of Commons;" and he seems to think the case too enormous to have been ever possible. "If, for instance, they were to send their serjeant at arms to arrest a counsel here who was arguing a case between two individuals, or to grant an injunction to stay the proceedings here in a common action." Yet these enormities, too gross to be thought possible, were the daily proceedings of the House of Commons in former times; nay, they fall short of the truth. Not only did that great assembly in *Charles* the Second's time placard *Westminster Hall* with injunctions to barristers (some of Lord *Kenyon's* most illustrious predecessors) against daring to appear in the discharge of their duty to their clients, but they sent their serjeant at arms to arrest and imprison counsel, solicitors, and parties who had violated their privileges by presuming to appear at the bar of the highest Court of appeal in the country. They may not have granted their formal injunction to stay proceedings
in

1839.

STOCKDALE
- against
HANSARD.

Lord Denman
C. J.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Lord Denman
C. J.

in a common action; but they constantly decided the subjects of common actions as matters of privilege, solely because one of the parties interested happened to be one of their own body. If Lord *Kenyon* had been Chief Justice in the days of Sir *John Fagg* and Dr. *Shirley (a)*, and either of them had sued out his writ of habeas corpus before him, and had appeared to be in *Newgate* for the offence of submitting his case to be argued in the House of Lords, it is plain that he would have enquired whether the house was justified in that particular measure, and would have restored the prisoners to freedom. Yet their resolution was "a proceeding by one branch of the legislature," "a proceeding of those who, by the constitution," were "the guardians of the liberties of the subject." This inconsistency in a person of Lord *Kenyon's* wonderful acuteness, as well as other inaccuracies hereafter to be noticed, make one regret that the judgment in this case, like those before whom *Murray* and *Crosby* had been brought, was not more deliberately prepared. It was given on the instant, not in a full Court, not after hearing both sides. It bears marks of haste, and, we cannot deny, of the excitement and inflammation which belonged to the extraordinary times in which it occurred.

I do not pretend to discuss at length the particulars of every case in which the doctrine of privilege is asserted; but two, of paramount magnitude and importance, cannot be passed over. Sir *W. Williams* was prosecuted (b) by ex officio information for an order signed by him as Speaker, authorising the publication and sale of *Dangerfield's Narrative*, being a slanderous libel on *James, Duke of York*, four years after that order had been given. His trial did not come on till the duke had

(a) 6 *How. St. Tr.* 1121. (b) 19 *How. St. Tr.* 1369. S. C. 2 *Show.* 417.

ascended the throne; he pleaded to the jurisdiction of the Court, and that plea is admitted to have been properly overruled; he then pleaded as a justification the order of the House of Commons, and that plea was set aside without argument. He was fined 10,000*l.*, and afterwards the fine was reduced to 8,000*l.* He never questioned this sentence, nor has it been reversed by any court or by act of parliament; on the contrary, Lord *Kenyon*, in the case last under discussion, appears to me to have considered it as good law; but, at the moment, his memory, in general so faithful, misled him as to the facts. He said, "the publication was the paper of a private individual, and under pretence of the sanction of the House of Commons an individual published" (*a*). Now, though the narrative was indeed the paper of a private individual, it was adopted by the House, who ordered its publication; the Speaker did not publish as an individual, nor under pretence of their sanction, but as Speaker, and by their direct command. It was, therefore, an act done in parliament. The proceeding was by consequence a breach of the fundamental privilege which exempts all that is there done from question. The affair was taken up by the Convention parliament; the Bill of Rights refers to it; the judgment would probably have been reversed by parliament, like the attainders of *Russel* and *Sidney*, if the bill introduced for that purpose had not contained a most iniquitous provision for reimbursing the sufferer out of the estates of the Attorney-General, which caused its rejection by the Lords.

Even if this case were not bad law, it would be worthy of the severest censure; a prosecution by the Crown of a single member of parliament for the mis-

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANBARD.

Lord *Denman*
C. J.

(a) 8 T. R. 296.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Lord Denman
C. J.

deed of all, commenced years after, the defence indecently scouted from the court without a hearing, and the conviction followed by an excessive penalty. But in what respect can it be said to bear the least analogy to the present case? The Speaker is not here sued: the sale of the present libel is not by the Speaker, nor took place within the walls of parliament. If any officer of the house had been held innocent in disseminating that mass of atrocious falsehood, if any bookseller had been held justified in selling it, because the Speaker ordered that it should be sold for the benefit of the libeller, that would have been indeed a case in point. But I find, in 3 *Mod.* 68 (a), that *Dangerfield* himself had been convicted and punished for this same publication; and of that sentence I do not find that the legality any more than the justice has ever been challenged; yet it is plain that the Speaker's order under the authority of the house would have been as good a justification to him for publishing, as the resolution of the House can now be to the present defendant. These two cases afford the true distinction; *Rex v. Williams* (b) was ill decided, because he was questioned for what he did by order of the House, within the walls of parliament. *Rex v. Dangerfield* (a) is undoubted law, because he sold and published, beyond the walls of parliament, under an order to do what was unlawful.

Lord *Shaftesbury*, in 29 *Car.* 2. (c), sought his discharge from imprisonment in the *Tower* on an order of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal to keep him and two other Lords in safe custody, "during his Majesty's pleasure, and the pleasure of this house, for high contempts committed against this house." The return

(a) *Rex v. Dangerfield*, 3 *Mod.* 68.

(b) 13 *How. St. Tr.* 1369.

(c) 6 *How. St. Tr.* 1269. *S. C.* 1 *Mod.* 144. 3 *Keb.* 792.

was open to serious objection, as may be seen in the long arguments reported at p. 144. of 1 *Mod.* Of the three Judges who remanded the Earl, one said that the return, made by an ordinary court of justice, would have been ill and uncertain, but would not say what would be the consequence as to that imprisonment if the session were determined. The second said, "the return, no doubt, is illegal, but the question is on a point of jurisdiction, whether it may be examined here? This Court cannot intermeddle with the transactions of the high Court of peers in parliament, during the session," "therefore the certainty or uncertainty of the return is not material, for it is not examinable here; but if the session had been determined, I should be of opinion that he ought to be discharged." And the third, the Chief Justice, thought the Court had no jurisdiction, for reasons unconnected with the continuance of the session. It is strange that the duration of the session, on which the judgments turn so much, is now held to be immaterial where the Lords commit. This decision, which undeniably, and *à fortiori*, would give a sanction to many later ones, and many dicta touching privilege which arose on habeas corpus, is cited by Lord *Ellenborough*, in *Burdett v. Abbot* (a), without a comment. In *Rex v. Flower* (b) allusion is made to it by Lord *Kenyon*, without considering its authority in point of law. Mr. Justice *Holroyd*, when arguing Sir *F. Burdett's* case at the bar (c), distinguished between that action, in which the nature of the contempt appeared in the plea, and the return to the habeas corpus stating the contempt in general terms; he distinguished also between an action and the proceedings by habeas corpus.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Lord Denman
C. J.

(a) 14 *East*, 147.(b) 8 *T. R.* 314.(c) 14 *East*, 62—70.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Lord Denman
C. J.

One feature of *Shaftesbury's* case (a) is curious, though not perfectly singular: the very proceedings of the House of Lords, to which the Court of King's Bench yielded entire acquiescence, were condemned by the same house, 19th November 1680, as "contrary to the freedom of parliament," "derogatory to the authority of parliament, and of evil example and precedent to posterity" (b). The order and proceedings were thereupon adjudged "unparliamentary from the beginning, and in the whole progress thereof, and therefore were all ordered to be vacated, that the same or any of them may never be drawn into precedent for the future." In the same manner, after Lord *Camden* and the Court of Common Pleas had held Mr. *Wilkes* entitled to his release from custody before his trial on an indictment for libel, by reason of his privilege as a member of parliament (c), the House of Commons came to a vote that themselves possessed no such privilege (d). By which authority in such cases should we be bound? By that of our own law books, our daily guides, which however would appear to refer us to the journals, or by that of the journals of the House, in which the *Lex et Consuetudo Parliamenti* are treasured, but which are supposed to be hidden from our view. I think the Attorney-General referred us to the latter, of which he had before assured us that we were ignorant. Yet in *Shaftesbury's* case (a) these journals would overturn the authority of the Court. So, in the *Middlesex* election contests between *Wilkes* and *Luttrell*, it is notorious that the law of parliament was laid down in the most opposite sense on different occasions by the House of Commons.

But, as to these proceedings by habeas corpus, it may

(a) 6 *How. St. Tr.* 1269.

(b) 6 *How. St. Tr.* 1310.

(c) 19 *How. St. Tr.* 989.

(d) 15 *Parl. Hist.* 1362.

be enough to say that the present is not of that class, and that, when any such may come before us, we will deal with it as in our judgment the law may appear to require.

The Attorney-General told us of another case in point in his favour, *Burdett v. Abbot* (a). We must then examine that case fully. The plaintiff committed a breach of privilege by the publication of a libel; the defendant, the Speaker, stating that fact on the face of his warrant, committed him by order of the House to prison; an action was brought for this assault and false imprisonment. Did the House of Commons threaten the plaintiff or his attorney or counsel for a contempt of their privileges? On the contrary, by an express vote they directed their highest officer to plead and submit himself to the jurisdiction of this Court. When the suit was pending, did they entertain questions on the course of the proceedings, or resolve that they alone could define their own privileges, or declare that Judges who should presume to form an opinion at variance with their's should be amenable to their displeasure? They suffered the cause to make the usual progress through its stages, and placed their arguments before the Court. Their arguments were just; their conduct had been lawful in every respect. The Court gave judgment in the Speaker's favour. The grounds of the decision were, not that all acts done by their authority were beyond the reach of enquiry, or that all which they called privilege was privilege, and sacred from the intrusion of law, but that they had acted in exercise of a known and needful privilege, in strict conformity with the law.

Let us now see what was acknowledged by the Court

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSAARD.

Lord Denman
C. J.

(a) 14 *East*, 1.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Lord Denman
C. J.

to be the privilege of the House of Commons. Lord *Ellenborough*, almost on opening his luminous commentary on all the learning so profusely poured out in the discussion, claims for the High Court of Parliament, and each of the houses of which it consists, "that authority of punishing summarily for contempts which is acknowledged to belong, and is daily exercised *as belonging, to every superior court of law*, of less dignity undoubtedly than itself" (a). This is the position established by him. The nucleus of Mr. Justice *Bayley's* careful argument is in these few words: "The House of Commons has not only a legislative character and authority, but is also a court of judicature." "If then the House be a court of judicature, it must" "have the power of supporting its own dignity as essential to itself; and without the power of commitment for contempts, it could not support its dignity" (b). Sir *V. Gibbs*, the Attorney-General, who argued for the Defendant, took the same ground of justification (p. 85.). It were "easy to shew that every court in *Westminster Hall* has the same power of commitment for contempts, and that they could not exist long without such a power." "If then the right exist in *the courts of Westminster Hall*, upon what principle, it might then have been asked, could it be contended that the *same right* did not exist, and in the same degree, in the House of Commons?" (P. 86.) Such was the principle on which the Exchequer Chamber affirmed the judgment (c); and the question proposed by Lord *Eldon* in the House of Lords to the Judges, before that tribunal of the last resort pronounced in favour of the House of Commons, confines it in the same manner (d). The decision manifestly rests on the

(a) 14 *East*, 138.(c) *Burdett v. Abbot*, 4 *Taunt.* 101.

(b) P. 159.

(d) 5 *Dow.* 199.

privilege to punish for contempt, inherent no doubt in parliament and in each House, whether regarded in the legislative or in the judicial capacity, but which it only possesses in common with the courts of justice, and which was there exercised within the strictest bounds of common law.

This great case, solemnly argued at the bar, and on both sides with extraordinary learning and power, and in which the Court evidently pursued their own enquiries in the interval between the arguments, presents a striking contrast to the rash and unmeasured language employed by former judges in *ex parte* proceedings, as writs of habeas corpus, and motions for criminal information. Lord *Ellenborough* and *Bayley J.* carefully guard themselves against adopting such expressions, the former dissenting directly from Chief Justice *De Grey*, the latter quoting without dissent the doctrine laid down by *Holt* in *Regina v. Paty* (a). With the same freedom Lord *Ellenborough* commented, in *Rex v. Creevey* (b), on Lord *Kemyon's* dicta in *Rex v. Wright* (c).

To the assertion, that the courts have always acquiesced in the unlimited claim of privilege, I have already stated enough to authorise me in opposing the contrary assertion. I proceed to prove its truth in other instances.

The phrases which I have selected for remark out of the cases cited are the exception, not the rule. From early times the spirit of *English* judicature has been more free and independent. Numerous cases were cited in the argument for the plaintiff, in *Burdett v. Abbot* (d), not required for the decision, except as they removed

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Lord Denman
C. J.

(a) 2 *Ld. Ray.* 1115.(c) 8 *T. R.* 293.(b) 1 *M. & S.* 273.(d) 14 *East*, 1.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Lord Denman
C. J.

the preliminary obstacle to all discussion. They have been repeated in able tracts; most of them were criticised by the Attorney-General. He sought, and successfully in some, to shew that the question of privilege, under the circumstances, did not arise. But they are not cited for their circumstances; their use is to shew that the courts exercised the right of examining matters supposed to be protected from their enquiry by privilege of Parliament. For this purpose it is enough to enumerate, in the words of *Prynn* (a), "the cases of *Larke* (b), *Thorp* (c), *Clerke* (d), *Hyde* (e), *Attwyll* (g), *Walsh* (h), *Cosin* (i), *Ferrers* (k), and *Trewynnard* (l), which (he says) "the Lord Chief Justice vouched, and insisted on in his learned argument of this case, to the great satisfaction of those of the long robe, and most auditors then present, as well members of the Commons House as others;" *Cook's* (m), *Pledall's* (n), and others might be added. *The Duchess of Somerset's Case* (o), *Fitzharris's* (p), and others not necessary to be named, were of later date. The Chief Justice thus eulogised by *Prynn* was Sir O. *Bridgman*, delivering the judgment of the Court in *Benyon v. Evelyn* (q), who brings this result out of his examination of ancient authorities. "That resolutions or resolves of either house of parliament, *singly*, in the absence of the parties concerned, are not so concludent in courts of law, but that we may (with due respect nevertheless had to those resolves and resolutions), nay,

(a) *Regist.* Part 4. p. 815.

(b) 1 *Hats.* 17.

(d) *Ib.* 34.

(g) *Ib.* 48.

(i) *Ib.* 42.

(f) *Ib.* 59.

(n) Cited 14 *East*, 47., from *Prynn's Reg.* Part 4., 1213.

(o) *Prynn's Reg.* Part 4., 1214.

(q) O. *Bridgman's* judgments, 324.

(c) *Ib.* 28.

(e) *Ib.* 44.

(h) *Ib.* 41.

(k) *Ib.* 53.

(m) *Ib.* 96.

we *must* give our judgment according as we, upon oath, conceive the law to be, though our opinions fall out to be contrary to those resolutions or votes of either House."

That Chief Justice *Bridgman* took upon himself to decide on privilege is so clear from his own plain words, that the opinion of *Holt* in *Ashby v. White* (a), and of *Holroyd* in arguing *Burdett v. Abbot* (b), cannot make us more certain of the fact. The Attorney-General does not deny the proposition, but would parry its effect, by shewing that the circumstances appearing there raised no question of privilege, and that what he was pleased to style the parade of learning on the subject was misapplied. But the Judge avowed his right and duty: if he invaded privilege of parliament, by laying down doctrines inconsistent with it, the invasion could not be less culpable because uncalled for by the cause in hand.

The next case to which I advert in truth embraced no question of privilege whatever; but, as one of the highest authorities in the state has thought otherwise, I shall offer some comments upon it; I mean *Jay v. Topham* (c). The House of Commons ordered the defendant, their serjeant-at-arms, to arrest and imprison the plaintiff for having dared to exercise the common right of all *Englishmen*, of presenting a petition to the King on the state of public affairs, at a time when no parliament existed. For this imprisonment an action was brought. The declaration complained, not only of the personal trespass, but also of extortion of the plaintiff's money practised by defendant under colour of the Speaker's warrant. The plea of justification under that warrant, which could not possibly authorise the extortion, even if it could the arrest, was over-ruled by this Court, no doubt with the utmost

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANBARD.

Lord Denman
C. J.

(a) 2 *Ld. Ray.* 938. *S. C.* 14 *How. St. Tr.* 695.

(b) 14 *East*, 49.

(c) 12 *How. St. Tr.* 824.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Lord Denman
C. J.

propriety, for the law was clear; Lord *Ellenborough* points this out in the most forcible manner, in 14 *East*, 109. Yet for this righteous judgment C. J. *Pemberton* and one of his brethren were summoned before the Convention parliament, when they vindicated their conduct by unanswerable reasoning, but were, notwithstanding, committed to the prison of *Newgate* for the remainder of the session. Our respect and gratitude to the Convention parliament ought not to blind us to the fact that this sentence of imprisonment was as unjust and tyrannical as any of those acts of arbitrary power for which they deprived King *James* of his crown. It gave me real pain to hear the Attorney-General contend that the two Judges merited the foul indignity they underwent, as they had acted corruptly in concert with the Duke of *York*. In support of this novel charge, he produced no evidence, nor any other reason but that the plea, as set out in *Nelson's Abridgement* (a), appears to have been in bar, and not to the jurisdiction. But the Commons, who knew their own motives, made no such charge: the record produced there, on which the Judges were said to have violated the law, exhibits a bad plea for the reasons assigned by Lord *Ellenborough*; and the judgment punished by the Commons could not have been different without a desertion of duty by the Judges.

We have arrived at the Revolution, in which *Holt* took a conspicuous part. He owed to it the seat which he filled with such unrivalled reputation. On three several occasions he found himself compelled to deal with questions of privilege, and on all he gave his judgment against the claim. I shall not dwell minutely on

(a) 2 *Nels. Abr.* 1248. The plea there is that pleaded, not in *Jay v. Topham*, but in *Verdon v. Topham*. See 14 *East*, 102. note (a).

Knollys's Case (a), where he, with the whole Court, came to a different conclusion from the House of Lords, as to the supposed Earl of *Banbury's* right to that title. The Attorney-General asserted that that was no question of privilege, but merely whether an individual was a peer or not. One might have supposed that the issue, whether one claiming to be a member of either house of parliament was such or not, had some relation to parliamentary privilege, especially when the restraint of his person on a criminal charge was involved in that question. The Lords considered it matter of privilege, and questioned the Judges. But the matter, it seems, had not been formally referred to the House of Lords, and was not duly brought before them. They had, however, formally given judgment, and of that the Court was informed. How could the Court know that the Lords had proceeded extrajudicially, if utterly ignorant of parliamentary matters, or be permitted to enquire into their methods of proceeding, if their own subordinate station estopped them from questioning any act done by the paramount authority of a House of Parliament?

Without farther pressing *Knollys's Case (a)*, I confess it was not without difficulty that I could trust the evidence of my own senses, when the Attorney-General set aside the authority of *Ashby v. White (b)* by declaring that it was not a question of parliamentary privilege. If not, the three Justices who differed from the Chief Justice were strangely deceived: the Chief Justice himself misapprehended both their reasoning and his own. The House of Lords was mistaken in their view of the subject, when they adopted the Chief Justice's opinion against that of

1839.

 STOCKDALE
 against
 HANSARD.

 Lord Denman
 C. J.

(a) Or *Knowles's Case*, 12 How. St. Tr. 1167. S. C. 2 Salk. 509.

1 *Ld. Ray.* 10.

(b) 2 *Ld. Ray.* 938. S. C. 14 How. St. Tr. 695.

1839.

—
 STOCKDALE
 against
 HANSARD.

Lord Denman
 C. J.

his three brethren. And the House of Commons was most of all ignorant of the truth, when (*January 17th 1704* (a), three days after the Lords had reversed the judgment of the Queen's Bench) being "informed, that there had been an extraordinary judgment given in the House of Lords upon a writ of error from the Court of Queen's Bench, in a cause between *Matthew Ashby* and *William White*, wherein the privileges of the House were concerned," they brought the proceedings before them, and after great debate resolved (b) that *Ashby* having, in contempt of the jurisdiction of the House, commenced such action, was guilty of a breach of their privileges, and that whoever should presume to do the like, and all attornies, solicitors, counsellors, serjeants at law, soliciting, prosecuting, or pleading in any such case, "are guilty of a high breach of the privilege of this House." The Lords (c), after full enquiry by a Committee, resolved, on the other hand, "that the declaring *Matthew Ashby* guilty of a breach of the privilege of the House of Commons, for prosecuting an action against the constables of *Aylesbury*, for not receiving his vote at an election, after he had, in the known and proper methods of law, obtained a judgment in Parliament for recovery of his damages, is an unprecedented attempt upon the judicature of Parliament, and is in effect to subject the law of England to the votes of the House of Commons."

And now we are gravely informed that this case concerned not the privileges of parliament. If, however, the opinion of all the Judges and of both Houses, and of all historians and all lawyers till that assertion was made, be correct, then that case decided that the Courts of law were not bound by the opinion of the Commons' House on matters of election, whereupon they claimed

(a) 14 *How. St. Tr.* 696.

(b) P. 776.

(c) P. 799.

the sole right of judging, and had actually given judgment; but that the law must take its course, as if no such judgment had been given by the House of Commons, and no such privilege claimed. On this point the decision has never to my knowledge been impugned in any of our courts. Lord *Mansfield* is supposed to have dissented from it, but his doubt applies to the form of declaration (*a*) merely; and his own practice at the bar (*b*), of asking leave of the House of Commons to commence such actions, proves only his cautious desire to avoid and avert from his clients the doom denounced against *Ashby*, *Paty*, and their brother burgesses and others in *pari delicto*, their counsel and attornies.

In the case commonly designated as *The Case of the Men of Aylesbury* (*c*), a question of the utmost difficulty and importance was brought before the same Chief Justice, and the Court of Queen's Bench. The House of Commons, acting on the resolution just cited, pronounced those persons guilty of the breach of privilege there prohibited, and sent them to *Newgate* for a contempt in bringing their action. They sued out their habeas corpus. *Holt*, in a judgement of the highest excellence (*d*), gave such reasons for restoring them to liberty as it is easier to outvote than answer: the other three judges thought the adjudication of the House of Commons on a contempt brought before them could not be gainsayed in that proceeding. The Judges of the other courts are understood to have concurred with the majority in the Queen's Bench; and the opinion just cited must be taken as that of eleven judges against one. But the other

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Lord Denman
C. J.

(a) See also, as to the opinion of *Tracy J.*, 2 *Ld. Ray.* 958.

(b) 14 *East*, 59, note (*b*).

(c) *Regina v. Paty*, 2 *Ld. Ray.* 1105. S. C. 14 *How. St. Tr.* 849.

(d) See "The judgements delivered by the Lord Chief Justice *Holt*," &c. from the original MSS., ed. 1837. *Antè*, p. 55. note (*b*).

1839.

—
STOCKDALE
against
ANSARD.

Lord Denman
C. J.

eight could only have stated their first impression, without publicity, and without hearing the argument. There is no satisfaction in dwelling on the angry contests between the two Houses which ensued. The peculiarity of the circumstances leaves a doubt whether the law can be considered as settled by what then occurred (a). But, even supposing that this Court would be bound to remand a prisoner committed by the House for a contempt, however insufficient the cause set out in the return, that could only be in consequence of the House having jurisdiction to decide upon contempts. In this case we are not trying the right of a subject to be set free from imprisonment for contempt, but whether the order of the House of Commons is of power to protect a wrong doer against making reparation to the injured man.

When the Judges were supposed to have unanimously agreed to surrender their right of examining whatever may have been done by authority of parliament, some very important declarations by some of the most eminent among them must have been forgotten. Lord Chief Justice *Willes* avowed the contrary resolution: "I declare for myself that I will never be bound by any determination of the House of Commons against bringing an action at common law for a false, or a double return, and a party injured may proceed in *Westminster Hall* notwithstanding any order of the House:" *Wynne v. Middleton* (b).

What was said by Lord *Mansfield* in the House of Lords, respecting the privileges of the other House in the *Middlesex* election, is the more weighty, because he was then upholding the privilege of the latter in election matters (c): "Declarations of the law," said he, "made

(a) See 14 *East*, 92. note (b).

(b) 1 *Wils.* 128.

(c) 16 *Parl. Hist.* 653.

by either House of parliament, were always attended with bad effects: he had constantly opposed them whenever he had an opportunity, and in his judicial capacity thought himself bound never to pay the least regard to them." He exemplified this remark by reference to general warrants: although thoroughly convinced of their illegality, "which indeed naming no persons were no warrants at all, he was sorry to see the House of Commons by their vote declare them to be illegal. That it looked like a legislative act which yet had no force nor effect as a law: for supposing the House had declared them to be legal, the Courts in *Westminster* would nevertheless have been bound to declare the contrary; and consequently to throw a disrespect on the vote of the House." "He made a wide distinction between general declarations of law, and the particular decision which might be made by either House, in their judicial capacity, on a case coming regularly before them, and properly the subject of their jurisdiction." "Here" (that is in a case of election) "they did not act as legislators, pronouncing abstractedly and generally what the law was, and for the direction of others; but as judges, drawing the law from the several sources from which it ought to be drawn, for their own guidance in deciding the particular question before them, and applying it strictly to the decision of that question."

The dispute between the two houses in 1784 (a), when the Commons issued a kind of mandate to the Treasury to suspend the payment of certain bills till the House should further direct, was in fact a struggle between the two great parties in the country. The Lords by a large majority condemned that proceeding, and resolved (as the same House had almost in corresponding terms

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Lord Denman
C. J.

(a) See 24 *Parl. Hist.* 494. et seq.

resolved

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Lord Denman
C. J.

resolved at the close, in 1704, of the *Aylesbury Case*) — “That an attempt, in any one branch of the legislature, to suspend the execution of the law, by separately assuming to itself the direction of a discretionary power, which, by an act of parliament, is vested in any body of men to be exercised as they shall deem expedient, is unconstitutional” (a). The doctrine was enlarged upon by Lord *Thurlow*, who spoke of the resolutions of the House of Commons in terms preserved by tradition, which there might be impropriety in repeating. The Commons defended their resolution by asserting that, in fact, it did not fairly bear the import ascribed to it. Lords *Mansfield* and *Loughborough* took the same line in answering Lord *Thurlow*, both fully admitting with him, that the Commons have no power to suspend the law by their resolutions. The former said (b), that “for either branch of the legislature to attempt to suspend the execution of the law, was undoubtedly unconstitutional.” “It had been stated as a ground for voting it (c), that the House of Commons had come to a resolution militating against a clause of the 21st of the present King. What then? A resolution of the House of Commons would not suspend the law of the land. A resolution of the House of Commons, ordering a judgment to be given in any particular manner, would not be binding in the Courts of *Westminster Hall*.”

Nor can I refrain from quoting the characteristic burst of sentiment with which Lord *Erskine* remarked in 1810 on some censure cast on Sir *Francis Burdett*, for appealing to the law against the legality of the Speaker's warrant. “No man would more zealously defend the privileges of parliament, or of either House of parliament,

(a) 24 *Parl. Hist.* 497.(b) *Ib.* 517.

(c) The proposed resolution of the House of Lords.

than he should; and he admitted, that what either branch of the legislature had been for the course of ages exercising with the acquiescence of the whole legislature, would, in the absence of statutes," "be evidence of the common law of parliament, and, as such, of the common law of the land. The jurisdiction of courts rested in a great measure upon the same foundation: but besides that, these precedents, as applicable alike to all of them, were matters of grave and deliberate consideration; they were, and must be, determined in the end by the law." "The contrary was insisted upon by the Commons, when they committed Lord Chief Justice *Pemberton* for holding plea of them in his Court; but so far was he from considering such a claim as matter of argument under this government of law, that I say advisedly, said his lordship, that if, upon the present occasion, a similar attack was made upon my noble and learned friend (Lord *Ellenborough*) who sits next me, for the exercise of his legal jurisdiction, I would resist the usurpation with my strength, and bones and blood." "Why was any danger" "to be anticipated by a sober appeal to the judgment of the laws? If" "the judges had no jurisdiction over the privileges of the House of Commons, they would say they had no jurisdiction. If they thought they had, they would give a just decision according to the facts and circumstances of the case, whatever they might be" (a).

After these decisions in our Courts, and these strong and vehement declarations of opinion, by some of the greatest luminaries of the law, it is too much to seek to tie our hands by the authority of all our predecessors.

On Lord *Brougham's* judgment in the case of Mr.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANBARD.

Lord Denman
C. J.

a) 16 Cobb. Par. Deb. 851.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Lord Denman
C. J.

Long Wellesley, lately published by himself (a), and reported also in *2 Russell* and *Mylne*, 639, for obvious reasons I shall observe but shortly. He adopted in its fullest terms the resolution expressed by C. J. *Willes* (b), and carried it no farther, though his form of expression is perhaps more striking and forcible. "If instead of justly, temperately, and wisely abandoning this monstrous claim, I had found an unanimous resolution of the House in its favour, I should still, (and it is this which made me interpose to assure the counsel that I needed not the resolution of the House of Commons in favour of the Court of Chancery), I should still have steadily pursued my own course, and persisted in acting according to what I knew to be the law" (c). A declaration the more remarkable, as proceeding from a judge long known as the champion of all popular rights, the jealous asserter of all the real privileges of that assembly, where his station and his services may be thought to place his name on a level, at least, with the greatest of all those, either lawyers or statesmen, who have come after him upon the same stage.

It is indeed true that that avowal of opinion was no more necessary for the decision than perhaps the discussion of Chief Justice *Bridgman* and the declared resolution of Chief Justice *Willes*. But would that circumstance render the sentiment less offensive, if it really assailed the independence and dignity of the House of Commons? Quite the contrary. Yet there was no committee, no resolution, no menace.

Two admissions were made by the Attorney-General

(a) *Speeches of Lord Brougham*, vol. iv. p. 357.

(b) 1 *Wils.* 128. *Antè*, p. 138.

(c) *Mr. Long Wellesley's Case*, 2 *Russ.* & *M.* 660.

in the course of his argument here, either of which appears to me fatal to his case. He very distinctly recognised the words of Lord *Mansfield*, that, if either House of Parliament should think fit to declare the general law, that declaration is undoubtedly to be disregarded, adding that it should be treated with contempt. Now such declaration would be a proceeding of the House, and so above all enquiry.

Again, if the due subordination of Courts is the guiding principle, the declaration, even if against law, by a superior Court, demands respect and deference, if not acquiescence. But the declaration of general law may arise in the course of an enquiry respecting privilege: the claim advanced by the report of the committee (a) is that the House is the sole and exclusive judge of the *extent* of its own privileges, and the Attorney-General, in the same spirit, informed us, on the part of the House of Commons, of his and their "confidence that, when we should be informed that the act had been done in the exercise of a privilege, we should hold that we could no longer enquire into the matter." He warned us that, this being a question of privilege, we have no power to decide it; and told us that whenever either House claims to act in exercise of a power which it claims, the question of privilege arises. But, if the claim were to declare a general law, the Attorney-General agrees that no weight would belong to it. Clearly then the Court must enquire whether it be a matter of privilege, or a declaration of general law: as indisputably, if it be a matter of general law, it cannot cease to be so by being invested with the imposing title of privilege.

The other concession to which I alluded is, that, when

(a) "Report," &c. (cited, *antè*, p. 89., note (b)); page 17. sect. 78.

matter

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Lord Denman
C. J.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Lord Denman
C. J.

matter of privilege comes before the Courts not directly but incidentally, they may, because they must, decide it. Otherwise, said the Attorney-General, there would be a failure of justice. And such has been the opinion even of those judges who have spoken with the most profound veneration of *privilege*. The rule is difficult of application. Lord *Ellenborough* and the Court, as well as the defendant's learned counsel, felt it to be so, in *Burdett v. Abbot* (a). The learned report of the select committee states (b), in direct terms, that they "have not been able to discover any satisfactory rule or test by which to ascertain in all cases whether the question of privilege would be deemed to arise *directly* or *incidentally*; there are many cases which might be decisively placed in the one class or the other, but there may be also very many which cannot be so assigned." — "Your committee are of opinion, that the Courts *have no jurisdiction* to decide upon privilege, either *directly* or *incidentally*, in any sense inconsistent with the independence and exclusive jurisdiction of parliament. If such a jurisdiction did exist of deciding *incidentally* upon privilege, uncontrolled by parliament, it would lead to proceedings as incongruous, and as effectually destructive of the independence of parliament as if the *direct* jurisdiction existed; a consequence which, together with the extreme uncertainty of the extent of the rule, makes it indispensably necessary that it should be investigated."

The report (c) seems to consider that the question of privilege arose *incidentally* in the former trial between these parties (d), and points out very serious inconveni-

(a) 14 *East*, 1.

(b) "Report," &c. (cited *antè*, p. 89., note (b)); page 13. sects. 59, 60.

(c) Pp. 13—15. sects. 61—65.

(d) See p. 101. note (b); *antè*.

ences that may flow from according to Courts of Justice this power of deciding incidentally. The opinion that the Courts have no jurisdiction to decide upon privilege, either directly or incidentally, undergoes some apparent qualification by a reference to *the sense* in which the words are used. It appears that the Courts have no such jurisdiction "in any sense inconsistent with the" "exclusive jurisdiction of parliament" (a). I would not venture to speak with absolute certainty of the meaning of this passage; but I imagine that a body which has no jurisdiction to act in any sense inconsistent with the exclusive jurisdiction of another body can possess no jurisdiction at all. I think, then, it must be assumed, that the Committee of the late House of Commons declared that the Courts have no jurisdiction whatever to decide even incidentally on any matter of privilege; their resolutions having reference to this preceding part of their report.

Now this power is denied to the Courts by this report for the first and only time. Even the appendix (b) to it, which by being published by the same authority I know not well how to disjoin from it, returns to that same distinction between the direct and incidental occurrence of questions of privilege which the report and resolutions appear to repeal. It were to be wished that the late House of Commons had laid down their rule for the guidance of the courts in language less open to dispute as to its meaning; but we in this case must feel relieved from all embarrassment, by the frank acknowledgment of the Attorney-General. If, then, we may be under the obligation of deciding on privilege, even though incidentally, it follows that we have some

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD,
Lord Denman
C. J.

(a) Report, &c. P. 13, s. 60.

(b) See Appendix, No. 3., p. 25. to 29.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Lord Denman
C. J.

knowledge on the subject, or at least the means of obtaining knowledge. The report takes for granted that, if either House has actually come to a decision on the point thus raised, we should be bound to adhere to it: and the Attorney-General insisted that, even if in the present case the question did but arise incidentally, we should be bound by the declaration of the law set forth by the House in any formal statement of its opinion.

Our duty would then be to interpret the law laid down by one House by discovering its meaning. But after ascertaining it as best we might from those stores of parliamentary learning from which we are pronounced to be excluded, we might possibly find that the other House (or the same House at another time) had come to an opposite declaration. What course must we then take? How reconcile the discrepancy? Perhaps it may be said that the fact is not to be presumed. I agree that it is not; but it exists at this moment with reference to the legal rights of parties in the matter that arose in *Ashby v. White* (a). This court could not decide the matter either way, without overruling what has been laid down either by Lords or Commons, and thus violating the privileges of parliament, and rendering ourselves amenable to just displeasure.

But suppose an entirely new point to arise, and some party litigating here to set up a claim of privilege never heard of before, as to which, therefore, neither House had ever framed a resolution.

Since, then, the courts may give judgment on matters of privilege incidentally, it is plain that they must have the means of arriving at a correct conclusion, and that they may differ from the house of parliament, as *Holt*

(a) 2 *Ld. Ray.* 938. 8. C. 14 *How. St. Tr.* 695.

and

and the Court of Queen's Bench differed from the Lords in the *Banbury Case* (a), as he did in *Paty's Case* (b), and as the same and many other of the Judges as well as the lords did from the Commons in the case of *Ashly v. White* (c), and as I trust every Court in *Westminster Hall* would have done, if an order of either House, purporting to be made by virtue of the privilege of parliament, had been brought before them as a justification for the imprisonment of a subject of this free state, for killing Lord *Galway's* rabbits, or fishing in Admiral *Griffin's* pool.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Lord Denman
C. J.

In truth, no practical difference can be drawn between the right to sanction all things under the name of privilege, and the right to sanction all things whatever, by merely ordering them to be done. The second proposition differs from the first in words only. In both cases the law would be superseded by one assembly; and, however dignified and respectable that body, in whatever degree superior to all temptations of abusing their power, the power claimed is arbitrary and irresponsible, in itself the most monstrous and intolerable of all abuses.

Before I finally take leave of this head of the argument, I will dispose of the notion that the House of Commons is a separate court, having exclusive jurisdiction over the subject matter, on which, for that reason, its adjudication must be final. The argument placed the House herein on a level with the Spiritual Court and the Court of Admiralty. Adopting this analogy, it appears to me to destroy the defence attempted to the present action. Where the subject

(a) 12 *How. St. Tr.* 1167.

(b) 2 *Ld. Ray.* 1105. *S. C.* 14 *How. St. Tr.* 849.

(c) 2 *Ld. Ray.* 938. *S. C.* 14 *How. St. Tr.* 695.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Lord Denman
C. J.

matter falls within their jurisdiction, no doubt we cannot question their judgment; but we are now enquiring whether the subject matter does fall within the jurisdiction of the House of Commons. It is contended that they can bring it within their jurisdiction by declaring it so. To this claim, as arising from their privileges, I have already stated my answer: it is perfectly clear that none of these Courts could give themselves jurisdiction by adjudging that they enjoy it.

3. I come at length to consider whether this privilege of publication exists. The plea states the resolution of the House that all parliamentary reports printed for the use of the House should be sold to the public, and that these several papers were ordered to be printed, not however stating that they were printed for the use of the House. It then sets forth the resolution and adjudication before set out. We know, by looking at the documents referred to at the bar, that this resolution and adjudication could not justify the libel complained of, because it was not in fact passed till after action brought. But, passing over all minor objections, I assume that the defendant has properly pleaded a claim, on the part of the House, to authorise the indiscriminate publication and sale of all such papers as the House may order to be printed for the use of its members.

The Attorney-General would preclude us from commencing this enquiry. He protests against our taking any other step than that of recording the judgment already given in the Superior Court, and registering the edict which Mr. *Hansard* brings to our knowledge. But, having convinced myself that the mere order of the House will not justify an act otherwise illegal, and that the simple declaration that that order is made in exercise

cise of a privilege does not prove the privilege, it is no longer optional with me to decline or accept the office of deciding whether this privilege exist in law. If it does, the defendant's prayer must be granted and judgment awarded in his favour; or, if it does not, the plaintiff, under whatever disadvantage he may appear before us, has a right to obtain at our hands, as an *English* subject, the establishment of his lawful rights and the means of enforcing them.

In the first place, I would observe that the act of *selling* does not give the plaintiff any additional ground of action, or right to redress at law, beyond the act of publishing. The injury is precisely the same in its nature, whether the publication be for money or not, though it may be much more extensively injurious when scattered over the land for profit. But the direction to *sell* is highly important in this respect, that public *sale* necessarily imports indiscriminate publication beyond recal or control, and holds out the same authority as a protection to every subordinate vender, who, by purchase from their printer and bookseller, is, like him, doing no more than giving effect to an order of the House.

How far it is strictly constitutional for either House of Parliament to raise money by sale or otherwise, and apply it to objects not specified by Act of Parliament, might require consideration on general grounds, but does not belong to the present season or place, in which we have only to deal with the manner in which the mutual rights of the parties before us in this action are affected.

It is likewise fit to remark that the defamatory matter has no bearing on any question in Parliament, or that could arise there. Whether the book found in the

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.
Lord Denman
C. J.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Lord Denman
C. J.

possession of a prisoner in *Newgate* were obscene or decent could have no influence in determining how prisons can best be regulated; still less could the irrelevant issue whether it was published by the plaintiff. The most advisable course of legislation on the subject is wholly unconnected with those facts: the inquisitorial functions would be exercised with equal freedom and intelligence, however they were found to be. And, if the ascertainment of them by the House was a thing indifferent, still less could the publication of them to the world answer any one parliamentary purpose.

The proof of this privilege was grounded on three principles, — necessity, — practice, — universal acquiescence. If the necessity can be made out, no more need be said: it is the foundation of every privilege of parliament, and justifies all that it requires. But the promise to produce that proof ended in complete disappointment. It consisted altogether in first adopting the doctrine of *Lake v. King (a)*, that printing for the use of the members is lawful, and then rejecting the limitation which restricts it to their use. The reasoning is, "If you permit the number of copies to be as large as the number of members, the secret will not be confined to them." A strong appeal to justice and expediency against printing, even for the use of the members, what may escape from their hands to the injury of others, but surely none, in point of law, for throwing down the only barrier that guards the rest of the world against calumny and falsehood founded on *ex parte* statements, made for the most part by persons interested in running down the character assailed.

The case just alluded to drew a line, in the nineteenth year of *Charles* the Second, which has always been

(a) 1 *Saund.* 131.

thought correct in law. The defendant justified the libel he had printed, by pleading that it was only printed for the use of the members. Much doubt at first existed whether the justification were good in law; the right of delivering copies for the use of the members of a committee being undisputed, but some of the Judges questioning whether printing could be so justified. After an advisement of many terms and even of some years, Lord *Hale* and the Court sustained the defence, because, being necessary to their functions, it was the known course in parliament to print for the use of members. But wherefore all this delay and doubt, if the House *then* claimed the privilege of authorising the publication of all papers before them? or how can we believe that the defendant would not have pleaded at first that privilege, when we find that he was admitted to have acted according to the course and proceedings of parliament, if it was then their understood right? This case occurred within a very few years of *Benyon v. Evelyn* (a), which must have excited the attention of the House, and made them vigilant in maintaining their privileges against improper interference from courts of law.

The supposed necessity soon dwindled, in the hands of the learned counsel, down to a very dubious kind of expediency; for is it not much better, said he, that a man defamed, and thence avoided by mankind, should know he has been the victim of a privileged publication, than remain ignorant by what means he has lost his place in society? A question over which many a man might wish to pause before he answered it. It is far from certain that he would become acquainted with the fact; he might be absent on business, or abroad in the

1839.

 STOCKDALE
 against
 HANSARD.

 Lord Denman
 C. J.
(a) *O. Bridgman's judgments*, 324. *Trim. T. 14 Car. 2.*

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Lord Denman
C. J.

service of his country ; but the discovery when made would bring him small comfort, as it would shew him that his enemy was too strong to grapple with, and that the door of legal redress must be barred against him for ever.

Another ground for the necessity of publishing for sale all the papers printed by order of the House was, that members might be able to justify themselves to their constituents, when their conduct in parliament is arraigned, appealing to documents printed by authority of the house. This is precisely the principle denied and condemned by Lord *Ellenborough* and the court in *Rex v. Creevey* (a), a decision which it may now perhaps be convenient to censure as inconsistent with privilege, but which, founded on Lord *Kenyon's* authority in *Rex v. Lord Abingdon* (b), has been uniformly regarded till this time as a just exposition of the law. But indeed it is scarcely possible for ingenuity to fancy a case in which a member, accused of any misconduct in his trust, should be able to vindicate himself by resorting to such documents. Then, on general grounds, the necessity of making the parliamentary conduct of members known to their constituents is urged, and the duty of the House of Commons to convey instruction to the people. The latter argument may be answered by asserting that the duty of general instruction resides in the whole legislature, and not in any single branch of it. The former argument proves too much ; for the conduct of the representative is best disclosed by the share taken by him in the debates, which from all time up to the present moment have been, not only neither sold nor published by the House, but cannot be published by the most accurate reporter

(a) 1 M. & S. 278.

(b) 1 Esp. N. P. C. 226.

without his incurring the danger of *Newgate* for breach of privilege, and being exposed without justification to legal consequences.

It can hardly be necessary to guard myself against being supposed to discuss the expediency of keeping the law in its present state, or introducing any and what alterations. It is no doubt susceptible of improvement; but the improvement must be a legislative act. If we held that any improvement, however desirable, could be effected under the name of privilege, we should be confounding truth, and departing from our duty; and if, on such considerations, either house should claim, as matter of privilege, what was neither necessary for the discharge of their proper functions, nor ever had been treated as a privilege before, this would be an enactment, not a declaration; or, if the latter name were more appropriate, it would be the declaration of a general law, to be disregarded by the courts, though never, I hope, treated with contempt. It would also be the declaration of a new law; and the word "adjudge" can make no difference in the nature of the thing.

The practice, or usage, is the second ground, on which the Attorney-General seeks to rest this privilege; and he has a warrant for his claim, which, if well founded, is even stronger than any opinion of necessity: he refers to an act of parliament.

The postage act (*a*), it seems, conveys all parliamentary proceedings to all parts of the empire free of expense. And, forasmuch as, when that act passed, it was notorious that the votes and other proceedings contained matter criminating individuals, therefore, it was argued, the legislature must have intended to circulate such criminating matter. But the same act requires newspapers to

(a) Stat. 42 G. 3. c. 63. See stat. 7 W. 4. § 1 Vict. c. 32. and c. 34.

1899.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Lord Denman
C. J.

be

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Lord Denman
C. J.

be circulated free of postage: it was equally notorious that newspapers often contained libels; yet it was never contended that the postage act intended to give impunity to their circulation. In both cases it is clear that the act merely gave untaxed circulation to such proceedings and such papers as it was before lawful to circulate, leaving all questions of what is lawful in their former plight.

But "the practice has prevailed from all time." If so, it is strange that no vestiges of it are tracked to an earlier period than 1640, when the House of Commons, acting neither in a legislative nor an inquisitorial capacity, began to set up an authority independent of the Crown, and hostile to it, which led to its gradually absorbing all the powers of the state. For near twenty years the house was taking this executive part, which they could not carry on but by publishing their votes and proceedings. At the Restoration they made some amends to the exiled King, by evincing their loyalty in the same manner; and their vows of allegiance and submission were also sold and published, as their manifestoes and levies of men and money against his father had been before. Thus does the practice appear to have originated in the Long Parliament, and to have been continued at the Restoration. The origin disproves the antiquity of the privilege, or its necessity for the functions of one of the three estates; no such necessity was thought of till one began to struggle against the other two for an ascendancy which reduced them to nothing. True it is, the practice of so printing and publishing has proceeded with little interruption till this hour. But the question is not on the lawfulness or expediency of printing and publishing in general; it is whether any
proof

proof can be found of a practice to authorize the printing and publication of papers injurious to the character of a fellow subject. Such a privilege has never been either actually or virtually claimed by either House of Parliament; the notice of neither has been called to the fact of their giving publicity to writings of that character. What course they might have taken we cannot know, if a party thus injured had laid his grievance before them. Had their answer been, We claim the right to promulgate our judgment on cases within our jurisdiction, on which we have made inquisition, heard evidence and defence, and formed our judgment,—they would have referred to a state of things wholly different from that which is now before us. If they had said, we claim the privilege of ordering the printing of what we please, and of publishing all we print, however partial the statement, and however ruinous to individuals, the question of their right to justify the publisher would have been much the same as that which we have now under discussion.

The *practice* of a ruling power in the state is but a feeble proof of its legality. I know not how long the practice of raising ship-money had prevailed before the right was denied by *Hampden*; general warrants had been issued and enforced for centuries before they were questioned in actions by *Wilkes* and his associates, who, by bringing them to the test of law, procured their condemnation and abandonment. I apprehend that acquiescence on this subject proves, in the first place, too much; for the admitted and grossest abuses of privilege have never been questioned by suits in *Westminster Hall*. The most obvious reason is, that none could have commenced a suit of any kind for the purpose, without incurring

1839.

 STOCKDALE
 against
 HANSARD.

 Lord Denman
 C. J.

1839.

—
 "STOCKDALE
 against
 HANSARD.

Lord Denman
 C. J.

incurring the displeasure of the offended house, instantly enforced, if it happened to be sitting, and visiting all who had been concerned. During the session, it must be remembered that privilege is more formidable than prerogative, which must avenge itself by indictment or information, involving the tedious process of law, while privilege, with one voice, accuses, condemns, and executes. And the order to "take him," addressed to the serjeant at arms, may condemn the offenders to persecution and ruin. Who can wonder that early acquiescence was deemed the lesser evil, or gravely argue that it evinced a general persuasion that the privilege existed in point of law?

Besides, the acquiescence could only be that of individuals in particular hardships, brought upon themselves by the proceedings published. We have a right to suppose that a considerate discretion was fairly applied to the particular circumstances of each case; that few things of a disparaging nature were printed at all; that, where criminating votes were allowed to meet the public eye, they were justified as an exercise of jurisdiction upon matters properly brought before parliament, after patient hearing, and candid enquiry; that the imputations were generally true, and actions for libel would only have made them more public; and that, even where *ex parte* proceedings were printed to the annoyance of private persons, that minute suffering would be lost sight of in the general sense of an overwhelming necessity. All kinds of prudential considerations, therefore, conspired to deter from legal proceedings, and will fully account for the acquiescence; and the difference between the extent of publication formerly practised and the uncontrolled sale of all that the House may choose

to

to print in order to raise a fund for paying its officers cannot fail to strike every unbiassed understanding.

I must add, that the evidence on this subject set forth in the Report convinces me that publication has never been by way of exercising any of its privileges, nor the fruit of deliberation to what extent it ought to be carried and within what bounds restrained. With very different objects the practice was originally introduced; it grew imperceptibly into a perquisite; and I venture to believe that it was raised into a traffic, and a means of levying money, without much consideration.

The authority to which the Attorney-General last appealed is one to which particular attention is due; I mean the Report of the committee appointed by the late House of Commons to examine the subject. He spoke of it as a document of extraordinary weight, demanding the utmost respect, as uniting the suffrages of the most distinguished statesmen and the most eminent lawyers. I feel just and high deference towards them all; towards none more than the learned person who pressed us with their authority, and whose argument at the bar so fully laid before us all that could possibly be urged in defence of their resolutions. That learned person gave us to understand that he had sacrificed many weeks of his valuable time in studying this great subject, and that in preparing his argument he had become perfectly convinced that his side was the side of truth. He must forgive me the remark, that this conclusion would have affected me more if it had preceded, instead of following, the report of that committee and the trial at *Nisi Prius*, and indeed the resolution of 1835 (a).

He also felt it right to remind us that members of that committee, though not now occupying judicial sta-

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Lord Denman
C. J.

(a) *Antè*, p. 4.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Lord Denman
C. J.

tion, are sure to, do so hereafter; that their fame may eclipse all their predecessors upon the bench, and their opinion, embodied in the committee's report, ought to be as much venerated as if it had appeared some ages earlier, — in the reign, he added by way of example, of Queen *Anne*. I fully accede to the suggestion; but, in acting upon it, I could not refrain from considering the claims to confidence which the individual members might possess. My enquiry would not be confined to their learning and ability: I should ask of their habitual candour and love of truth; perhaps, too, of their political and personal connections. I might be driven to the invidious necessity of comparison: finding that some lawyers in the House had dissented from the committee, if I had found also in the minority such names as adorn the list of those who opposed the claim of privilege in the case of *Ashby v. White* (a), in the reign referred to, it might be difficult, notwithstanding any disparity of numbers, to be quite certain which way the balance of authority inclined.

One thing would aid me in this estimate; whether the first impression of those most conversant with constitutional law coincided with the resolutions in which they afterwards concurred. For in many cases the first thoughts of understanding men are the best, and the surest to bear the stamp of truth; subsequent consideration sometimes brings expediency into competition with rectitude, and expediency of all kinds, general and particular, public and personal. But, on the other hand, it would not be unimportant to know whether great lawyers, whose minds had not been particularly exercised in these matters, who might have been at first induced to concur in the resolutions, had seen reason to

(a) 2 *Ld. Ray.* 938.

abide by them on maturer reflection. Some may have yielded to the extensive claims of privilege admitted by judges, and asserted by great living authority, who might afterwards renounce them as inconsistent with clear principles of law in daily operation. But I have been led too far in observing on the authority of the Report, against which the plaintiff is, in truth, appealing to our judgment, and on which nothing but the learned counsel's claim of deference to it could have tempted me to make a single remark. Let me only add that, if its authority and force of reasoning had appeared to its composers so conclusive, there might have been more propriety and more grace in leaving them to their natural influence over our minds, than in resorting to language which would have exposed our motives to a darker suspicion than any pointed at by the Attorney-General, if our opinion had happened to coincide with that of the House of Commons.

I cannot conclude without some reference to the particular circumstances which have attended this cause in its progress, and have been observed upon by the Attorney General at the close of his long discourse. I then mentioned the suddenness with which this great subject came upon me, when the newspapers informed me that the issue which I was about to try had been made the topic of discussion in the House of Commons the night before. I must now add that when, on the trial (a), it was proposed to make out a defence from the resolution so often cited, that resolution was unknown to me. The project of the Honourable House to authorize the unrestricted sale of all their printed proceedings at so much a sheet, throwing off such a discount to whole-

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANNAED.

Lord Denman
C. J.

(a) Antâ, p. 101, note (b).

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Lord Denman
C. J.

sale purchasers, and appropriate the money to be raised to specific purposes, was what I never had anticipated, and (I own) could hardly believe. I thought it clear that such a course of proceeding could only be defended by asserting for one House of Parliament that sovereign power which is lodged in the Three Estates; an opinion confirmed by the report of the committee, by the Attorney General's argument, and by the concurrence of my learned brethren.

Some degree of censure was insinuated on my immediate declaration of an opinion not absolutely necessary for disposing of the cause, and which was said to have encouraged the plaintiff to commence this second action. I may be allowed to doubt this supposed consequence; for the second action was brought three months later, and immediately after the report of the committee had appeared. Perhaps, by some dexterous dealing with the points that arose at *Nisi Prius*, it might have been possible to avoid this painful collision, but not without shrinking from my duty to those parties who, whether necessarily or not, brought this question before me, and had a right to my opinion upon it; not without a poor compromise of the sacred principles of constitutional freedom. Besides, the delay would have implied a doubt where none was entertained, and would have been but a short postponement of the evil day; for similar questions must have sprung up in other quarters, and must have brought under examination the large rights now claimed.

I had indulged a hope that the resolution might have undergone revision, and have been found such as the House of Commons would not wish to continue on its journals. I had even some ground for believing that distinguished members of the committee itself entered upon

upon the enquiry with opinions corresponding with my own; and I, for my own part, am at a loss to discover, in their printed report, or in the argument I have heard, any good reason for their conversion.

I cannot lament that I gave utterance at the proper season to sentiments of which I deeply felt the importance as well as the truth; nor can I doubt that a full consideration of the whole subject will lead to beneficial results. One thing alone I regret, a warmth of expression in asserting what law and justice appeared to me to require, which may have rendered it more difficult for the late House of Commons to recede from any claim which it had advanced.

I am of opinion, upon the whole case, that the defence pleaded is no defence in law, and that our judgment must be for the plaintiff on this demurrer.

LITLEDALE J. The first question for our consideration is, whether the resolution of the House of Commons, that they have the power to do an act, precludes the Court from enquiring into the existence of the power; and whether we are in the situation of enquiring into this question at all; and whether we are not estopped by this resolution of the House of Commons, who have resolved, declared, and adjudged, that the power of publishing such of its papers, votes, and proceedings as it shall deem necessary or conducive to the public interests, is an essential incident to the constitutional functions of Parliament, more especially to the Commons House of Parliament as the representative portion of it, operates (a) so as to estop this Court from

(a) Some verbal inaccuracies, which will be found in the report of this judgment, occur in the copy from which it was delivered. The few corrections requisite (which the reporters have not thought it proper to make) will be obvious.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Lord Denman
C. J.

Littledale J.

1839.

—
 STOCKDALE
 against
 HANSARD.
Littledale J.

proceeding to investigate the subject presented to the Court upon this demurrer.

It is said the House of Commons is the sole judge of its own privileges: and so I admit as far as the proceedings in the House and some other things are concerned; but I do not think it follows that they have a power to declare what their privileges are, so as to preclude enquiry whether what they declare are part of their privileges.

The Attorney-General admits that they are not entitled to create new privileges; but they declare this to be their privilege. But how are we to know that this is part of their privileges, without enquiring into it, when no such privilege was ever declared before?

We must therefore be enabled to determine whether it be part of their privileges or not.

Suppose the House of Commons had resolved that they had a right to punish persons for an infringement on the property of members, as was declared in the case of Admiral *Griffin*, and also in other cases where claims of privilege have been set up which are now abandoned by the Attorney-General, could it be contended that, if the House were now to resolve that those privileges belonged to them, this Court were estopped from enquiring into whether they were to be taken as part of the privileges? Or suppose that the House were to go much beyond what was formerly considered as privilege, and were to assert as privileges what, at the same time, I must admit, this House of Commons is never likely to assert, is this Court to be shut out from enquiry into whether they have the privilege or not?

It is said that the proceedings in courts which have a peculiar jurisdiction of their own, and where the mode
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of proceeding is different from ours, cannot be enquired into in the common law courts; as in the case of judgments, and matters only cognisable in the ecclesiastical courts, and in the admiralty courts, and that therefore, as the House of Commons is exclusively the judge of its own privileges, we cannot enquire into it. But the cases are not similar; the ecclesiastical courts and the courts of admiralty give judgment or decide matters upon adverse claims of parties litigated in the courts. But this proceeding in the House of Commons does not arise on adverse claims; there are no proceedings in the court; there is no judge to decide between the litigant parties; but it is the House of Commons who are the only parties making a declaration of what they say belongs to them.

If the House of Commons were to make an adjudication upon the discussion of a claim of litigant parties on a subject within their jurisdiction, this Court would be bound by it. If the House of Commons have the right to resolve what their privileges are, so as to estop the courts of common law from enquiring further into the subject, and in a case like the present to give judgment without more for the defendants, the House of Lords have the same power; and I will suppose that, the House of Lords having the same enquiry to make as to the state of prisons, under an act of parliament, and the very same reports and proceedings had been made to their House as have been made to the House of Commons, and that the House of Lords had resolved that copies of the papers should be printed for the use of the members of the House of Lords, and had declared that no other copies should be printed: and supposing that, upon the judgment now proposed by the Attorney-General to be given for the defendants on the ground

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Littledale J.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Littledale J.

before mentioned, and that the record came by writ of error before the House of Lords, would that House consider themselves estopped from enquiring into the matter by the resolution of the House of Commons? I will not pretend to say what they would do; but I cannot bring my mind to any other conclusion, as to this part of the case, than that this Court is not necessarily bound, by the mere assertion of the resolution of the privilege having been declared by the House of Commons, to give judgment for the defendants without further enquiry.

I would here make some remarks as to the mode in which the plea states the resolution of the House of Commons as to the privilege: "And the defendants further say, that the said Commons House of Parliament heretofore, to wit on the 31st day of *May*, in the year last aforesaid, resolved, declared, and adjudged that the power of publishing such of its reports, votes, and proceedings as it shall deem necessary or conducive to the public interests is an essential incident to the constitutional functions of Parliament, more especially to the Commons House of Parliament as the representative portion of it." This plea states the fact of a resolution having been made by the House of Commons on the 31st day of *May* 1837, which is after the day of the commencement of the action as stated in the demurrer book, and also after the day of the declaration. Now, if this was the averment of a new fact which had arisen after the commencement of the action, and it was a material fact to be introduced into the plea, it ought to be pleaded in bar of the further maintenance of the action, and not in bar of the action generally: but, as this statement of the resolution is only a statement of
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what is the privilege of the House, and which privilege, it is contended, is coeval with the House of Commons, I do not think it is such an allegation of a new fact as to say that the plea should be confined to be a bar of the further maintenance of the action.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Littledale J.

Another remark on the plea is, that the resolution of the 13th of *August* 1835, that the parliamentary papers printed by order of the House should be made accessible to the public by purchase, which includes all the papers printed. Whereas the resolution of the 31st of *May* 1837 is only as to such papers as should be deemed necessary and conducive to the public interest, which is more limited than the former resolution, and implies a selection, and might seem to require that the selection should be made after the resolution. But, as the plea states that the paper which is the subject of this action had been ordered to be printed, that implies that the House thought it necessary and conducive to the public interest that it should be published.

I have made these remarks as to the technicality of the plea. I will now consider whether the order of the House is a sufficient justification for the doing an act otherwise illegal? And whether the power does exist in this particular case.

I think that the mere statement, that the act complained of was done by the authority of the House of Commons, is not of itself, without more, sufficient to call at once for the judgment of the Court for the defendants. The defendants have not pleaded to the jurisdiction of the Court, but have pleaded in bar generally, and so as to raise a question of law or of fact according as the plaintiff chooses. And I think that this Court is not estopped from investigating the question of law

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Littledale J.

raised by the demurrer to the plea in this action. And I think we are to enquire whether the act of publication has any thing to do with the privileges of the House; and, if it has, then whether those privileges, connected with the authority given to the defendants, amount to a justification. In the case of *Burdett v. Abbot (a)* no question was made as to the Court being precluded from investigating the law of the case; they heard very long and laborious arguments, and gave judgment for the defendant. And so also we are at liberty here, and we are not shut out from hearing the arguments, and giving such judgment as we consider to be according to law. But it is said that the question of the privilege of the House of Commons comes directly before the Court upon the pleadings, and that, therefore, upon all the authorities, it is quite clear it is not competent to this Court to enquire into the question of privilege; and it is said that it is, in effect, the same case in principle as *Burdett v. Abbot (a)*; and that it was there held that the defence, being founded upon the order of the House to do the thing complained of, raised the question of privilege directly; and that the Court could not investigate the legality of that order. But this differs very materially from *Burdett v. Abbot (a)*. That was an action against the Speaker himself for an act done by him in the House. The act done by him was to commit an individual whom the House adjudged to be guilty of a contempt to the House, and who had been for that ordered to be taken into custody; and there was a specific order of the House as to the particular thing to be done; but this case is altogether different; these defendants are not members of the House, but agents em-

(a) 14 East, 1.

ployed by them ; the plaintiff is a perfect stranger to the House ; he has been guilty of no insult or contempt of the House, and there is no order of the House applicable to him. He stands, therefore, in the situation of a stranger to the House, complaining of persons who are no members of the House, but merely employed to distribute their papers.

Lord *Ellenborough* in the course of his judgment says (a) that, independently of any precedents or recognised practice on the subject, such a body as the House of Commons must à priori be armed with a competent authority to enforce the free and independent exercise of its own proper functions, whatever those functions may be. But yet, when he comes to the summing up the points for the consideration of the Court, and gives the first part of his judgment, he says, first, that "it is made out that the power of the House of Commons to commit for contempt stands upon the ground of reason and necessity independent of any positive authorities on the subject : but it is also made out by the evidence of usage and practice, by legislative sanction and recognition, and by the judgments of the courts of law, in a long course of well-established precedents and authorities" (b).

Lord *Ellenborough*, therefore, takes into his consideration the reason and necessity of the order, as well as the evidence of usage and practice, and the legislative sanction and recognition by courts of law in a long course of well established precedents and authorities. I admit that it is very difficult to draw the line between the question of privilege coming directly before the Court, and where it comes incidentally : the shades of difference run into one another.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.
Littledale J.

(a) 14 *East*, 138.(b) 14 *East*, 158.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.
Littledale J.

The decisions and dicta of the Judges, who have said that the House of Commons are the only judges of their own privileges, and that the courts of common law cannot be judges of the privileges of the House of Commons, are chiefly where the question has arisen on commitments for contempt, upon which no doubt could ever be entertained but that the House are the only judges of what is a contempt to their House generally, or to some individual member of it: but no cause has occurred where the Courts or Judges have used any expressions to shew that they are concluded by the resolution of the House of Commons in a case like the present. I think, therefore, that the Courts of *Westminster Hall* are not precluded from going into the enquiry from the decisions and dicta of Judges. And I think that, when Lord *Ellenborough* summed up the reasons for his judgments in the way already pointed out, in a case where it is alleged that the question of privilege came directly before the Court, we may follow his example, and endeavour to ascertain whether these resolutions of the House, on which the plea is founded, be founded on the reason and necessity of the order, as well as on evidence of the usage and practice, of the legislative sanction, and recognition of law in a long course of well established precedents and authorities.

After the very full and elaborate judgment of my Lord *Denman*, I do not think it necessary to go into the whole subject of privilege. There is no doubt about the right as exercised by the two Houses of Parliament with regard to contempts or insults offered to the House, either within or without their walls; there is no doubt either as to the freedom of their members from arrest, or of their right to summon witnesses, to require the
production

production of papers and records, and the right of printing documents for the use of the members of the constituent body; and as to any other thing which may appear to be necessary to carry on and conduct the great and important functions of their charge.

In the case of commitments for contempts, there is no doubt but the House is the sole judge whether it is a contempt or not; and the courts of common law will not enquire into it. The greater part of these decisions and dicta, where the Judges have said that the Houses of Parliament are the sole judges of their own privileges, have been where the question has arisen upon commitments for contempt, and as to which, as I have before remarked, no doubt can be entertained. But not only the two Houses of Parliament, but every court in *Westminster Hall*, are themselves the sole judges whether it be a contempt or not: although, in cases where the Court did not profess to commit for a contempt, but for some matter which by no reasonable intendment could be considered as a contempt of the Court committing, but a ground of commitment palpably and evidently unjust and contrary to law and natural justice, Lord *Ellenborough* says that, in the case of such a commitment, if it should ever occur (but which he says he could not possibly anticipate as ever likely to occur), the Court must look at it, and act upon it, as justice may require, from whatever Court it may profess to have proceeded.

I will confine my observations to what is the more immediate subject of this record, viz. the printing and publishing parliamentary papers.

There is no trace of printing parliamentary papers of any description prior to 1641, when there was a general resolution

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Littledale J.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Littledale J.

resolution for printing the votes of the House; and at subsequent times reports and miscellaneous papers were printed under special resolutions, and measures taken for their distribution through the country. And it appears that these various papers have from time to time been allowed to be sold. Then it appears, by the plea, that there was a general resolution of the House in *August 1835*, that the papers which should be ordered to be printed should be sold, and the price was directed to be as low as possible. The publication on which the action is founded was ordered to be printed, and was published by the defendants, who were the printers appointed by the House of Commons to print their papers; and it is upon these orders, and upon the resolution, that the defence is founded. Though the fact of any resolution for printing and distributing papers is not shewn to have taken place at an earlier period than 1641, yet, from the difficulty there may be in now finding records and documents of an earlier date, I cannot say but that they were printed before that time: the votes were the first things ordered to be printed; but, though the reports and miscellaneous parliamentary papers do not appear to have been printed till a later period, yet, for the purposes of this argument, I think they may be all classed together: and I think, also, that the resolution that they might be sold makes no difference in principle; for, though the sale would cause a greater circulation, it is the distributing them to the country at large, whether by sale or gift, that raises the question. The fact of the printing and distributing parliamentary papers, even had it existed long before the Conquest (when I say "printing," of course it is not appropriate language to the times before the introduction of printing),

ing), would, of itself, prove nothing as to privilege. Parliament does not require any privilege to publish its own papers; any man may publish his own papers; but the only thing that can be called privilege is a right to publish defamatory papers, amongst the general mass which are to be distributed. As a pure abstract universal statement of privilege, I think it cannot be supported; it can only be so under some qualifications. These qualifications must necessarily be enquired into.

The first case that occurs, as to the publishing parliamentary papers of a defamatory nature, was that of *Lake v. King (a)*, where certain parliamentary papers had been printed which aspersed the character of Sir Edward Lake, who was Vicar-General and principal official of the Bishop of *Lincoln*. The defendant pleaded that he printed the papers in question for the use of the members of the House of Commons; and, on a demurrer to the plea, the Court held the plea good, because it was the order and course of proceeding in parliament to print and deliver copies, &c., whereof they ought to take judicial notice. This decision was quite correct, as it was a privileged publication.

The next case that occurs as a case of litigation, is *Rex v. Williams*, which is reported in 2 *Shower*, 471., and much more fully in the thirteenth volume of the octavo edition of the *State Trials*, page 1369. It was an information against Sir William Williams, who was Speaker of the House of Commons, for printing and publishing a paper called *Dangerfield's* narrative. He pleaded to the jurisdiction of the Court, that, this paper being signed by him as Speaker by the

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HAWARD.
Littledale J.

(a) 1 *Shower*, 120, 131 a.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Littledale J.

order of the House of Commons, the Court of King's Bench had no jurisdiction over the matter. On a demurrer to this plea, it was over-ruled; and he afterwards pleaded nearly the same facts as a plea in bar. This plea in bar appears afterwards to have been withdrawn, and he was fined a very considerable sum of money. It was afterwards considered, when a change took place in the government, a very harsh proceeding against the Speaker, and as being very much influenced by the politics of the times; and a bill was brought into parliament to reverse the judgment obtained: but for some reason the bill was never finally passed, and the judgment remained as it was.

There is no doubt but the proceedings against Sir *William Williams* were very harsh and improper; but I am by no means prepared to say that, as the original plea was pleaded to the jurisdiction of the Court of King's Bench, and was not pleaded in bar, the judgment of the Court was wrong. But, as to what one may consider the merits of the case with regard to Sir *William Williams*, if he had either pleaded not guilty, or a special plea in bar, which he had prosecuted to trial, I am not prepared to say but that he ought to have been acquitted, because the act of signing the order for printing the paper was done in the House of Commons by the order and authority of the House, and was therefore a proceeding in the House, and, as such, was a case of privilege which exempted him from both a criminal prosecution and an action.

I will now advert to the case of *Rex v. Lord Abingdon (a)*. That was an information against Lord

(a) 1 *Esp. N. P. C.* 326.

Abingdon for a libel contained in a paragraph in the public newspapers, stated to be part of a speech delivered in the House of Lords. Lord *Abingdon* urged that, as the law and custom of parliament allowed a member to state in the House any facts or matters, however they might reflect on an individual, or charge him with any crimes or offences whatsoever, and such was punishable by the law of parliament, he from thence contended that he had a right to print what he had a right to deliver, without punishment or animadversion. Lord *Kenyon* said, "as to the words in question, had they been spoken in the House of Lords, and confined to its walls, that Court would have no jurisdiction to call his Lordship before them, to answer for them as an offence; but that in the present case, the offence was the publication under his authority and sanction, and at his expense."

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.
Littledale J.

I will next mention the case of *Rex v. Wright (a)*, which is considered as an authority for the defendants. It was an application by Mr. *Horne Tooke* for leave to file a criminal information against the defendant for publishing a paragraph in the report of a committee of the House of Commons, imputing treasonable conduct to Mr. *Tooke*. The rule was refused, and Lord *Kenyon* says, "it is impossible for us to admit that the proceeding of either of the Houses is a libel; and yet that is to be taken as the foundation of this application." He afterwards adds, that "this is a proceeding by one branch of the legislature, and therefore we cannot enquire into it." But Lord *Kenyon* does not admit the orders of the House of Commons to be conclusive on all occasions; for he says, "I do not say that cases may not

(a) 8 T. R., 293.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.
Littledale J.

be put in which we would not enquire whether or not the House of Commons were justified in any particular measure." Mr. Justice *Lawrence* assimilated the case to a publication of what took place in a court of justice. He says, "This case has been chiefly argued on two grounds: First, it is said that the report of the House of Commons is itself unjustifiable, inasmuch as it imputes a crime to the prosecutor, and deprives him of his privileges. It is said that this report charges him with being guilty of high treason, notwithstanding a verdict of the jury had ascertained his innocence; but that is not the fair import of the paragraph. It is possible that a man may have views hostile to the government and constitution of the kingdom, without being guilty of high treason, especially of the particular treason imputed to the persons there mentioned. It does not therefore follow that this Report charges those persons with the same crime of which they had been before acquitted: but the chief ground taken by the prosecutor's counsel is, That though the Report of the House of Commons cannot itself be considered as a libel, the defendant, not acting under the authority of the House, may be indicted for publishing it, with a view to general circulation. It has been said, That the publication of the proceedings of Courts of Justice, when reflecting on the character of an individual, is a libel; to support which position, the case of *Waterfield v. The Bishop of Chichester* (a) has been cited," upon which he makes some observations. Then he goes on to state, "the proceedings of Courts of Justice are daily published, some of which highly reflect on individuals; but I do not know that an information was ever granted against the publishers of them. Many of these

(a) 2 Mod. 118.

proceedings contain no point of law, and are not published under the authority or the sanction of the courts; but they are printed for the information of the public. Not many years ago, an action was brought in the Court of Common Pleas by Mr. *Currie* against *Walter (a)*, proprietor of "The Times," for publishing a libel in the paper of "The Times;" which supposed libel consisted in merely stating a speech made by a counsel in this Court, on a motion for leave to file a criminal information against Mr. *Currie*. Lord Chief Justice *Eyre*, who tried the cause, ruled that this was not a libel, nor the subject of an action, it being a true account of what had passed in this Court; and in this opinion the Court of Common Pleas afterwards, on a motion for a new trial, all concurred, though some of the judges doubted whether or not the defendant could avail himself of that defence on the general issue." He then adds, "though the publication of such proceedings may be to the disadvantage of the particular individual concerned, yet it is of vast importance to the public that the proceedings of Courts of Justice shall be universally known. The general advantage to the country in having these proceedings made public, more than counterbalances the inconveniences to the private persons whose conduct may be the subject of such proceedings. The same reasons also apply to the proceedings in parliament: it is of advantage to the public, and even to the legislative bodies, that true accounts of their proceedings should be generally circulated; and they would be deprived of that advantage if no person could publish their proceedings without being punished as a libeller." Though, therefore, the defendant was not authorized by the House of Commons to publish the report in question,

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.
Littledale J.

(a) *Curry v. Walter*, 1 Bos. & Pul. 525.

yet

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.
Littledale J.

yet, as he only published a true copy of it, Mr. Justice *Lawrence* stated that he was of opinion the rule ought to be discharged. It is to be observed that the strict expression of Lord *Kenyon* cannot be doubted for a moment: for he only says that it is impossible to admit that the proceeding of either House of Parliament is a libel; of which there is no doubt; for the proceeding itself certainly is not a libel. And, with regard to Mr. Justice *Lawrence's* opinion as to the publication of the proceedings in a court of justice, the generality of his expressions is commented on by other judges in subsequent cases, and does appear to admit of some qualification.

Then it is contended upon this case that, if the judges thought the publication was privileged, though unauthorized by the House of Commons, à fortiori it would be so if it was so authorized. The case as far as it goes is certainly in favour of the defendants.

After that comes the case of *The King v. Creevey (a)*. There the defendant published a speech which he had made in parliament, reflecting on the character of an individual. Lord *Ellenborough* says, "how can this be considered as a proceeding of the Commons house of Parliament? A member of that house has spoken what he thought material, and what he was at liberty to speak in his character as a member of that house. So far he was privileged: but he has not stopped there; but unauthorized by the house, has chosen to publish an account of that speech, in what he has pleased to call a more corrected form; and in that publication has thrown out reflections injurious to the character of an individual." The defendant was convicted, and, upon an application to the Court for a new trial, Lord *Ellenborough* says, "If any doubt belonged to this question, I should

(a) 1 M. & S. 273.

be most anxious to grant the rule to shew cause, in order to have the grounds of doubt more fully discussed and settled. But as I cannot find any thing on which to found even a color for argument, except what arises from an extravagant construction put on a particular expression of Lord *Kenyon* in the case of *The King v. Wright (a)*, it would be to excite doubts, and not to settle them, if we were to grant the rule. What Lord *Kenyon* there said was this, — “That it was impossible to admit that the proceeding of either of the houses of parliament was a libel; and yet that was to be taken as the foundation of the application made in that case.” I will not here wait to consider whether that could be strictly called a proceeding in parliament. What was printed for the use of the members was certainly a privileged publication; but I am not prepared to say that to circulate a copy of that which was published for the use of the members, if it contained matter of an injurious tendency to the character of an individual, was legitimate and could not be made the ground of prosecution. I should hesitate to pronounce it a proceeding in parliament in the terms given to some of the judges in that case. But it is not necessary to say whether that be so or not; because this does not range itself within the principle of that case. How can this be considered as a proceeding of the Commons house of parliament? A member of that House has spoken what he thought material, and what he was at liberty to speak in his character as a member of that House. So far he was privileged: but he has not stopped there, but unauthorized by the house, has chosen to publish an account of that speech in what he has pleased to call a more corrected form; and in that publication has thrown out reflections injurious to the

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Littledale J.

(a) 8 T. R. 293.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Littledale J.

character of an individual. The only question is, whether the occasion of that publication rebuts the inference of malice arising from the matter of it. Has he a right to reiterate these reflections to the public; and to address them as an oratio ad populum in order to explain his conduct to his constituents? There is no case in practice, nor I believe any proposition laid down by the best text writers on the subject, that tends to such a conclusion. The case of *Rex v. Wright* (a) indeed determined that a proceeding in parliament could not be deemed libellous; but that does not warrant a publication of it in every newspaper, as was held in *Rex v. Lord Abingdon* (b). As to *Curry v. Walter* (c), it is not necessary for the present purpose to discuss that case: whenever it becomes necessary, I shall say that the doctrine there laid down must be understood with very great limitations; and shall never fully assent to the unqualified terms attributed in the report of that case to *Eyre C. J.* "In *Lake v. King* (d) the judgment of Lord *Hale* and of the other Judges was founded upon this point, viz. that it was the order and course of proceedings in parliament to print and deliver copies, of which the Court ought to take judicial notice. In order therefore to bring this case within the rule in *Lake v. King* (d), we ought to find that it is the order and course of proceedings in parliament that members should print their own speeches; and that this Court will take judicial notice of such a course of proceeding. The very statement of the proposition shews it to be untenable. It is therefore neither within *Lake v. King* (d) nor *Rex v. Wright* (a), giving to that case its full effect; and even if it were, perhaps the

(a) 8 T. R. 293.

(b) 1 Esp. N. P. C. 226.

(c) 1 Bos. & Pul. 525.

(d) 1 Saund. 120. 131 a.

Court would lay down the doctrine with somewhat more imitation than is to be found in that case." Mr. Justice *Bayley* says, "If the case admitted of any doubt I should be desirous of granting a rule. But the case is without difficulty. A member of parliament has undoubtedly the privilege for the purpose of producing parliamentary effect to speak in parliament boldly and clearly what he thinks conducive to that end. He may even for that purpose, if he thinks it right, cast imputations in parliament against the character of any individual; and still he will be protected. But if he is to be at liberty to circulate those imputations elsewhere, the evil would be very extensive. No member, therefore, is at liberty to do so. In *Lake v. King* (a) such was the impression of the lawyers of that day. There the defendant did not justify the printing and delivering the petition to divers subjects, &c. generally, but to divers subjects being members of the committee appointed by the Commons; and such publication was held justifiable, because it was according to the order of proceedings of parliament and their committees. But it is not contended to-day that it is according to the course and order of parliament for members to communicate their speeches to the printers of newspapers, in order to give them to the world in a more corrected form. If any misrepresentation respecting them should go forth, there is a course perfectly familiar to all members, by which such misrepresentations may be set right, viz. by complaining to the House of the misrepresentation, and having the author of it at the bar to answer such complaint: therefore it is not necessary for the purpose of correcting the misrepresentation that a member should be the publisher of his own speech. It has been argued that the

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.
Littledale J.

(a) 1 *Saund.* 120. 131 a.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.
Littledale J.

proceedings of courts of justice are open to publication. Against that as an unqualified proposition I enter my protest. Suppose an indictment for blasphemy, or a trial where indecent evidence was necessarily introduced, would every one be at liberty to poison the minds of the public by circulating that which, for the purposes of justice, the court is bound to hear? I should think not: and it is not true, therefore, that in all instances the proceedings in a court of justice may be published." Mr. Justice *Le Blanc* says: "As to the right of a member of parliament to speak in parliament what is defamatory to the character of another, that sitting in a court of justice we were not at liberty to inquire into that; because every member had liberty of speech in parliament: but when he published his speech to the world, it then became the subject of common law jurisdiction; and the circumstance of its being accurate, or intended to correct a misrepresentation, would not the less make him amenable to the common law in respect of the publication."

Now these remarks in *Rex v. Creevey (a)* very materially neutralize the opinions of Lord *Kenyon* and Mr. Justice *Lawrence* in *Rex v. Wright (b)*; but after all none of the cases, *Rex v. Lord Abingdon (c)*, *Rex v. Wright (b)*, and *Rex v. Creevey (a)*, were publications under the orders of the House, and do not affect the question of privilege, and therefore I only consider them as declaring the opinion of Judges on publications to the public at large of what has occurred in parliament.

I would also take this opportunity of referring to the argument raised as to the publication of trials in courts of law, and which, it has often been stated, is justifiable

(a) 1 M. & S. 273.

(b) 8 T. R. 293.

(c) 1 Esp. N. P. C. 226.

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though they may contain matter defamatory to the character of individuals. I am by no means prepared to say that, as a general proposition, they may be justified. Besides the opinions of Lord *Ellenborough*, Mr. Justice *Bayley*, and Mr. Justice *Le Blanc*, as before expressed, I may refer to the case of *Stile v. Nokes* (a), and *Rex v. Mary Carlisle* (b), *Lewis v. Walter* (c), and *Flint v. Pike* (d), that it must not be understood that on all occasions the publication of trials which contain matter defamatory of the character of individuals can be justified.

It is said that it is proper that the members of the House should have the right to send copies of all the parliamentary papers to their constituents, to justify themselves in case their constituents should find any fault with their conduct in parliament. If the member whose conduct is blamed by his constituents wishes to vindicate his conduct, he may send what parliamentary papers he pleases, provided they do not contain any criminatory matter of individuals; but I think it can never be considered as justifiable to publish defamatory matter of other persons to justify his own conduct in parliament.

As to the general information to be given to the public of all that is going on in parliament, I cannot conceive upon what ground that can be necessary. I do not consider as a matter of right that the public should know all that is going on in parliament. But, as to the right of communicating the proceedings in parliament to the public, if it be meant to communicate any papers which contain matters defamatory as they think proper,

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.
Littledale J.

(a) 7 East, 493.

(b) 3 B. & Ald. 167.

(c) 4 B. & Ald. 605.

(d) 4 B. & C. 473.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.
Littledale J.

that is a matter which, in my judgment, can only be done by an act of the legislature. And I do not think that the communicating defamatory papers to the public can be justified as a matter of necessity, or as reasonable to be done.

An argument has been adduced in favour of the right to publish the proceedings in parliament from the act of 42 G. 3. c. 63., allowing the votes and proceedings in parliament to be sent free of postage. It may be thought very right to allow those papers to be sent free of postage on general principles: but no argument can be adduced from that, that the act meant to sanction the publication of such papers as are defamatory.

Then it is said, the plaintiff is defamed by these papers being delivered to the members, and therefore it is of little consequence whether the number of defamatory papers are extended. But thousands of copies may be distributed under the order of the House; and upon no principle of law can it be contended that, because a man may be lawfully criminated amongst one class of her Majesty's subjects, that he may be so amongst all.

Then it is said that, though the defaming a man's character be an evil, yet it is an evil of small magnitude compared with the advantages that may result from the publication of defamatory papers. But it does not appear to me that, as a general proposition, benefit is to be expected to result from the publication of defamatory papers. The advantages are altogether undefined and uncertain, and cannot, as a matter of law, be set off against the positive injury arising to a man from his character being defamed. But, if such a principle of law could be admitted, it would be necessary to shew what

what was the advantage to be derived from such a publication.

It is said that there is no instance of any action having ever been brought against any person for publishing parliamentary papers, the publication of which was sanctioned by the resolution of either House of Parliament, and that is a very strong reason why the action is not maintainable. That is sometimes given as a reason why an action cannot be maintained; but all such cases depend upon their own particular circumstances: when such cases arise, the principles of law are examined, and, if they apply, the Courts decide an action to be maintainable, though none such has ever been brought before; but here, the action taken by itself is confessedly maintainable, and the question is about the justification. Now the same identical justification was never pleaded before that I know of: and the question therefore is, not whether the action itself is maintainable, but whether there can be any objection to it, because the defence has never been set up. If the defence has never been pleaded before, and never brought into discussion on any other occasion except as far as I have before mentioned, there is no more reason to say that it is good, or that it is bad, till it has been investigated.

But it is said, that the practice of publishing parliamentary papers never has been disputed, and that there has been a complete acquiescence in it amongst all classes of persons, and that there have been a great many occasions where discussions have arisen in which circumstances relating to individuals have been laid before parliament, and that copies of those proceedings have been distributed through the country; as, for instance, in the investigation of the *South Sea* scheme,

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.
Littledale J.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Littledale J.

the slave trade, the municipal corporation act, and many others; and yet nobody has ever come forward to institute any proceedings upon them. Against those who furnished any criminatory matter to be laid before the House, or against any one who published them for the use of the members, no proceeding can be instituted. But, as to those who distributed them to the public, it may be remarked that persons whose conduct and character might be impugned where abuses existed might feel that they deserved the imputation, and that the charges against them were true, and therefore their taking any proceedings would only be to make the matter worse: and, as to those who were unconscious of deserving the charges, they might think that it would not be advisable to enter into a contest with the House of Commons.

It is said to allow this to be decided contrary to the Bill of Rights. The Bill of Rights (a) declares that the freedom of speech and debates on proceedings in parliament ought not to be impeached or questioned in any court or place out of parliament. This does not, in my opinion, in the smallest degree infringe upon the Bill of Rights. I think this is not such a proceeding in parliament as the Bill of Rights refers to; it is something out of parliament. The privileges of parliament appear to me to be confined to the walls of parliament, for what is necessary for the transaction of the business there, to protect individual members so as that they may always be able to attend their duties, and to punish persons who are guilty of contempts to the House, or against the orders and proceedings or other matters relating to the House, or to individual members in discharge of their duties to the

(a) 1 W. & M. sess. 2. c. 2.

House, and to such other matters and things as are necessary to carry on their parliamentary functions; and to print documents for the use of the members. But a publication sent out to the world, though founded on and in pursuance of an order of the House, in my opinion, becomes separated from the House; it is no longer any matter of the House, but of the agents they employ to distribute the papers; those agents are not the House, but, in my opinion, they are individuals acting on their own responsibility as other publishers of papers.

I admit that, if my opinion be correct, the same question may be agitated in the inferior courts, such as the quarter sessions and county and borough courts; that, however, results from the law: if the law be so, they have the right to enquire into it.

I therefore, upon the whole of this case, again point out what Lord *Ellenborough* very much relied upon in his judgment in *Burdett v. Abbot (a)*, when he said that "it is made out that the power of the House of Commons to commit for contempt stands upon the ground of reason and necessity independent of any positive authorities on the subject: but it is also made out by the evidence of usage and practice, by legislative sanction and recognition, and by the judgments of the Courts of law, in a long course of well-established precedents and authorities." But, in the case now before the Court, I think that the power of the House of Commons to order the publication of papers containing defamatory matter does not stand upon the ground of reason and necessity, independent of any positive authorities on the subject. And I also think that it is not made out by the evidence of usage and practice, by legislative sanction and

-1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.
Littledale J.

(a) 14 *East*, 158.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Littledale J.

recognition in the courts of law in a long course of well-established precedents and authorities.

Upon the whole of the case, I think there should be judgment for the plaintiff.

Patteson J.

PATTESON J. This is an action for a libel contained in a reply of certain inspectors of prisons, appointed under the act 5 & 6 W. 4. c. 38., to a report of the Court of Aldermen in *London*, and published by the defendants. The plea states that an original report of the inspectors was laid before the House of Commons *under the provisions of that act*, that their reply to the Court of Aldermen was laid before the House, *pursuant to an order of the House*, and became *part of the proceedings of the House*, which, as a matter of fact, is admitted by the demurrer. The plea also sets out a resolution of the House of Commons of the 13th *August* 1835, that the parliamentary *papers and reports* printed for the use of the House should be rendered accessible to the public by purchase at the lowest price at which they could be furnished; and that a sufficient number of extra copies should be printed for that purpose.

It also sets out the appointment of a committee on the subject, their resolution, and a further resolution and order of the House that the parliamentary papers and reports printed by order of the House should be sold to the public at certain specified rates; and that Messrs. *Hansard* (the defendants), the printers of the House, be appointed to conduct the sale thereof. It also states orders of the House for *printing* the original report of the inspectors and their reply. The plea then alleges that the defendants *printed* and *published* the report and reply by authority of the House; and, in conclusion

clusion, it sets out a resolution of the House of the 31st May 1837, by which it was resolved, declared, and adjudged, that the power of *publishing such of its reports, votes, and proceedings as it shall deem necessary, or conducive to the public interests*, is an essential incident to the constitutional functions of Parliament, more especially of the Commons' House of Parliament as the representative portion of it. The declaration in this case is entitled on the 30th May 1837, the day before the last-mentioned resolution. This resolution must be treated as declaratory only of a supposed ancient power of the House of Commons to publish, and that for two reasons. First, because, if it be treated as creating a new power or privilege, it would plainly be an alteration of the existing law, and an enactment of a new law by one branch of the legislature only, which, it is admitted on all hands, cannot lawfully be done. Neither is the language of the resolution consistent with such a supposition; for, if the power or privilege be essential now, it must always have been so, since the constitutional functions of parliament have always been the same. Secondly, if it be treated as a new power or privilege, it is not applicable to the libel for the publication of which this action is brought, nor to the action itself, both of which are prior to the passing of the resolution. The resolution in its terms seems to imply the exercise of some discrimination in the House, in selecting portions of its proceedings for publication; for it is limited to *such* of its proceedings as it shall deem necessary or conducive to the public interests; one would, therefore, have expected to see some averment in the plea that the publication in question had been so deemed by the House of Commons; yet nothing of the kind is to be found. However, as the plea sets out a prior resolution

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANBARD.
Patteson J.

1839.

—
 STOCKDALE
 against
 HANSARD.

Patteson J.

resolution of the House, that the parliamentary papers and reports printed by order of the House should be sold to the public, I suppose it must be taken, upon this record, that the House of Commons deems it necessary, or conducive to the public interests, to *publish all* the parliamentary papers and reports which it orders to be printed, without exercising any other discrimination, as to particular papers, than may be supposed to have been exercised when they were ordered to be *printed*. And the more so as there is an averment in the plea that the *publication* in question was by authority of the House, which is admitted by the demurrer.

Three questions appear to arise on this record.

First, whether an action at law will lie in any case for any act whatever admitted to have been done by the order and authority of the House of Commons.

Secondly, whether a resolution of the House of Commons, declaring that it had power to do the act complained of, precludes this Court from enquiring into the legality of that act.

Thirdly, if such resolution does not preclude this Court from enquiring, then whether the act complained of be legal or not.

With respect to the first question, it has not been contended in argument that either House of parliament can authorize any person to commit with impunity a known and undoubted breach of the law. Extravagant cases have been sometimes put, illustrating the impossibility of maintaining such a proposition. It has been answered truly, that it is not decent or respectful to those high assemblies to suppose that such extravagant cases should arise. But less extravagant cases have arisen in which both Houses of parliament have confessedly

fessedly exceeded their powers in punishing persons for trespasses on the lands of members, and other matters wholly without their jurisdiction, but which they have treated as questions of privilege. And, though no instance has been cited of any action having been brought, but, on the contrary, the persons proceeded against have very commonly submitted to the illegal treatment they have met with, yet surely the maxim of law must apply, viz. that there is no wrong without a remedy; and where can the remedy be but by action in a court of law against those who have done the injury? If it be once conceded that either House of parliament can make an illegal order, it must necessarily follow that the party wronged may have redress against those who carry such illegal order into effect: and how can he have such redress but by action at law? Great difficulties may undoubtedly arise in distinguishing between acts done *in* the House, and *out* of the House under orders given *in* the House, and in determining against whom such action would lie. It is clear that *no action can be maintained* for anything said or done by a member of either House in the House: and the individual members composing the House of Commons, whether it be a court of record or not, may, like other members of a court of record, be free from personal liability on account of the orders issued by them as such members. Yet, if the orders themselves be illegal, and not merely erroneous, upon no principle known to the laws of this country can those who carry them into effect justify under them. A servant cannot shelter himself under the illegal orders of his master. Nor could an officer under the illegal orders of a magistrate, until the legislature interposed and enabled him to do so. The mere circumstance, therefore,

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.
Patterson J.

1839. therefore, that the act complained of was done under the order and authority of the House of Commons, cannot of itself excuse that act, if it be in its nature illegal: and it is necessary, in answer to an action for the commission of such illegal act, to shew, not only the authority under which it was done, but the power and right of the House of Commons to give such authority. This point indeed was not pressed upon the argument of this case; but I have mentioned it because it seems to me that it will be very difficult to maintain the affirmative of the second question, if this first point be given up.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.
Patterson J.

The second question is, as I conceive, raised upon this record, by the declaratory resolution of the 31st of *May* 1837, set out at the conclusion of the plea. The other resolutions and orders set out in the plea are not declaratory of the power or privilege of the House, but directory only: and, as it has been shewn that it is possible that the House, however unintentionally, may make illegal orders, and that, if it should do so, those who carry them into effect may be proceeded against by action at law, it follows that the Court in which such action is brought must, upon demurrer, enquire into the legality of those directory orders, and cannot be precluded from doing so by the mere fact of those orders having been made.

If this Court, then, be not precluded from entertaining the question as to the legality of the directory orders by the orders themselves, it is precluded, if at all, by the resolution of the 31st of *May* 1837, and by nothing else. No other resolution of the House of Commons to a similar effect is set out in the plea, and we cannot look out of the record. It is certainly somewhat strange to
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urge that this Court, in which the present action was already pending, and which had already on its proceeding the declaration of the plaintiff, should be precluded from entering into the question by a resolution of the House of Commons passed between the declaration and the plea; but I pass on to consider the effect of the resolution as if it had been passed long before any action had been brought in which a question could arise as to the existence of the power to which it relates.

The proposition is certainly very startling, that any man, or body of men, however exalted, except the three branches of the legislature concurring, should, by passing a resolution that they have the power to do an act illegal in itself, be able to bind all persons whatsoever, and preclude them from enquiring into the existence of that power and the legality of that act. Yet this resolution goes to that extent; for, unless it is taken to mean that the House of Commons has power to order the publication of that which it knows to be defamatory of the character of an individual, and to protect those who carry that order into effect from all consequences, it will not avail the defendants in this action. I take the resolution, therefore, to have that meaning, though the language of it does not necessarily so import. And I take it also, in combination with the resolutions in 1835, to mean that the House of Commons deems it necessary or conducive to the public interests that *all* the parliamentary papers which it orders to be printed should be sold, though the resolution of 1837 by itself would seem to imply directly the contrary, and that some discrimination as to publishing should be exercised on the subject. Now, if the House of Commons,

by

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.
Patterson J.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Patterson J.

by declaring that it has power to publish all the defamatory matter which it may have ordered to be printed in the course of its proceedings with impunity to its publisher, can prevent all enquiry into the existence of that power, I see not why it may not, by declaring itself to have any other power in any other matter, equally preclude all enquiry in courts of law or elsewhere, as to the existence of such power. And what is this but absolute arbitrary dominion over all persons, liable to on question or control? It is useless to say that the House cannot by any declaratory resolution give itself *new* powers and privileges; it certainly can, if it can preclude all persons from enquiring whether the powers and privileges, which it declares it possesses, exist or not: for then how is it to be ascertained whether those powers and privileges be new or not? If the doctrine be true that the House, or rather the members constituting the House, are the sole judges of the existence and extent of their powers and privileges, I cannot see what check or impediment exists to their assuming any new powers and privileges which they may think fit to declare. I am far from supposing that they will knowingly do so; but I see nothing to prevent it. Some mode of ascertaining whether the powers and privileges so declared be new or not must surely be found; and, if it be conceded that the courts of law, when that question of necessity arises before them, may make the enquiry, then the doctrine that the resolution of the 31st of *May* 1837 precludes enquiry by this Court must fall to the ground. But it is argued that the point must be ascertained by reference to public opinion. I cannot find in the common law, or statute law, or in any books of authority whatever, any allusion to such reference: and indeed what tribunal can
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be conceived more uncertain, fluctuating, and unsatisfactory, than public opinion? It is even difficult to define what is meant by the words "public opinion."

It is further argued that the courts of law are inferior courts to the Court of Parliament and to the Court of the House of Commons, and cannot form any judgment as to the acts and resolutions of their superiors. I admit fully that the Court of Parliament is superior to the courts of law; and in that sense they are inferior courts: but the House of Commons by itself is not the Court of Parliament. Further, I admit that the House of Commons, being one branch of the legislature, to which legislature belongs the making of laws, is superior in dignity to the courts of law, to whom it belongs to carry those laws into effect, and, in so doing, of necessity, to interpret and ascertain the meaning of those laws. It is superior also in this, that it is the grand inquest of the nation, and may enquire into all alleged abuses and misconduct in any quarter, of course in the courts of law, or any of the members of them; but it cannot, by itself, correct or punish any such abuses or misconduct; it can but accuse or institute proceedings against the supposed delinquents in some court of law, or conjointly with the other branches of the legislature may remedy the mischief by a new law. With respect to the interpretation and declaration of what is the existing law, the House of Lords is doubtless a superior court to the courts of law. And those courts are bound by a decision of the House of Lords expressed judicially upon a writ of error or appeal, in a regular action at law or suit in equity; but I deny that a mere resolution of the House of Lords, or even a decision of that House in a suit originally brought there (if any such thing

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANNAH.
Patteson J.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.
Patteson J.

should occur, which it never will, though formerly attempted), would be binding upon the courts of law, even if it were accompanied by a resolution that they had power to entertain original suits: much less can a resolution of the House of Commons, which is not a court of judicature for the decision of any question either of law or fact between litigant parties, except in regard to the election of its members, be binding upon the courts of law. And it should be observed that, in making this resolution, the House of Commons was not acting as a court either legislative, judicial, or inquisitorial, or of any other description. It seems to me, therefore, that the superiority of the House of Commons has really nothing to do with the question.

But it is further said that the courts of law have no knowledge or means of knowledge as to the *lex et consuetudo parliamenti*, and cannot therefore determine any question respecting it. And yet, at the same time, it is said that the *lex et consuetudo parliamenti* are part of the law of the land. And this Court is, in this very case, actually called upon by the defendants to pronounce judgment in their favour, upon the very ground that their act is justified by that very *lex et consuetudo parliamenti*, of which the Court is said to be invincibly ignorant, and to be bound to take the law from a resolution of one branch of the parliament alone. In other words, we are told that the judgment we are to pronounce is not to be the result of our own deliberate opinion on the matter before us, but that which is dictated to us by a resolution of the House of Commons, into the grounds and validity of which resolution we have no means of enquiring, and are indeed forbidden by parliamentary law to enquire at all. I cannot agree

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to that position. If I am to pronounce a judgment at all, in this or in any other case, it must and shall be the judgment of *my own mind*, applying the law of the land as I understand it according to the best of my abilities, and with regard to the oath which I have taken to administer justice truly and impartially.

But, after all, there is nothing so mysterious in the law and custom of parliament, so far at least as the rest of the community not within its walls is concerned, that this Court may not acquire a knowledge of it in the same manner as of any other branch of the law. In the margin of the well known passage in Lord Coke's *Fourth Institute* (a), it is said to be *lex ab omnibus querenda à multis ignorata, à paucis cognita*. The same might with the same truth be said of any other part of the law. Lord Coke says, in the same place, that the High Court of Parliament *suis propriis legibus et consuetudinibus subsistit*. This is perfectly correct also when applied to the internal regulations and proceedings of parliament, or of either House; but it does not follow that it is so when applied to any power it may claim to exercise over the rest of the community.

It is, indeed, quite true that the members of each House of Parliament are the sole judges whether their privileges have been violated, and whether thereby any person has been guilty of a contempt of their authority; and so they must necessarily adjudicate on the extent of their privileges. All the cases respecting commitments by the House, mostly raised upon writs of habeas corpus, and collected in the arguments and judgments in *Burdett v. Abbot* (b), establish, at the most,

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSAARD.
Patterson J.

(a) 4 Inst. 15. in marg. Also in *Cot. Litt.* 11 b. (b) 14 East, 1.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Patteson J.

only these points, that the House of Commons has power to commit for contempt; and that, when it has so committed any person, the Court cannot question the propriety of such commitment, or inquire whether the person committed had been guilty of a contempt of the House; in the same manner as this Court cannot entertain any such questions, if the commitment be by any other court having power to commit for contempt. In such instances, there is an adjudication of a court of competent authority in the particular case; and the Court, which is desired to interfere, not being a Court of error or of appeal, cannot entertain the question whether the authority has been properly exercised. In order to make cases of commitment bear upon the present, some such case should be shewn in which the power of the House of Commons to commit for contempt under any circumstances was denied, and in which this Court had refused to enter into the question of the existence of that power. But no such case can be found, because it has always been held that the House had such power, and the point attempted to be raised in the cases of commitment has been as to the due exercise of such power. The other cases which have been cited in argument relate generally to the privileges of individual members, not to the power of the House itself acting as a body; and hence, as I conceive, has arisen the distinction between a question of privilege coming directly or incidentally before a court of law. It may be difficult to apply the distinction. Yet it is obvious that, upon an application for a writ of habeas corpus by a person committed by the House, the question of the power of the House to commit, or of the due exercise of that power, is the original and primary matter propounded

pounded to the Court, and arises directly. Now, as soon as it appears that the House has committed the person for a cause within their jurisdiction, as for instance, for a contempt so adjudged to be by them, the matter has passed in *rem judicatam*, and the court, before which the party is brought by writ of *habeas corpus*, must remand him. But if an action be brought in this Court for a matter over which the Court has general jurisdiction, as, for instance, for a libel, or for an assault and imprisonment, and the *plea* first declares that the authority of the House of Commons or its powers are in any way connected with the case, the question may be said to arise incidentally; the Court must give some judgment, must somehow dispose of the question. I do not, however, lay any great stress on this distinction. It seems to me that, if the question arises in the progress of a cause, the Court must of necessity adjudicate upon it, whether it can be said in strict propriety of language to arise directly or incidentally.

I do not purpose to go through all the authorities upon this part of the subject which have been already examined by my Lord, but to confine myself to a few of the leading cases; before, however, I do so, I would observe that privilege and power appear to me to be very different things, as I shall have occasion to observe hereafter, and that the present question appears to me to relate to the *powers* of the House of Commons and not to its *privileges* properly so called.

The principal case is *Thorp's Case* (a). I cannot pretend, after all the observations which have been

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.
Patteson J.

! (a) 31 & 32 H. 6. 1 *Hats. Pr.* 28, from 5 *Rot. Parl.* 239. *S. C.* 13 *Rep.* 63.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.
Patteson J.

made upon that case by counsel and judges, and by the report of the committee of the House of Commons on which the resolution of *May 31st*, 1837, was founded, and to which we have been referred by the Attorney-General, to throw any new light upon the real grounds of the answer there first delivered by the judges. With all deference for ancient authority, it appears to me to have been an evasive answer, probably arising from the circumstances of the times: but if that be not so, the answer, being given in the House of Lords, has respect to the situation both of those who proposed the question and those who gave the answer, and amounts only to this, that they the judges ought not to be called upon by the Lords in parliament to inform them as to the privileges of parliament, which they must themselves know; but it is nothing like a disclaimer of being able to decide any such question if it should arise in their own courts. And, as to that part of their answer in which they speak of parliament being able to make that law which was not law, it is plainly beside the question proposed; for it must relate to the power of the three branches of the legislature concurring, and not to any resolutions of any one of them separately, or even of any two of them; added to which, they do actually give their opinion as to what they would hold in their own courts, and the Lords adopt and act upon it (*a*).

The passages in Lord Coke's *Fourth Institute* (*b*) rest upon *Thorp's Case* (*c*), and if the foundation fails, the superstructure cannot stand, however celebrated the architect may be.

Expressions are certainly to be found in *Rex v. Wright* (*d*),

(*a*) See p. 117. *antè*, note (*b*).

(*b*) 4 *Inst* 15. See also 4 *Inst*. 49, 50.

(*c*) 1 *Hats. Pr.* 28.

(*d*) 8 *T. R.* 293.

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which appear to withdraw from the courts of law all power of noticing the publication of parliamentary papers; but the expressions used by Lord *Kenyon* appear to me, I say it with hesitation, and pace tanti viri, to be quite inconsistent; and I am at a loss to know on what ground he really proceeded: whilst Mr. Justice *Lawrence* appears to have considered that the matter was not libellous, let it be published by whom it would; and it is to be observed that it did not appear that it was published by order of the House of Commons. Again, the authority of that case is greatly shaken by *Rex v. Creevey* (a); and, even if that was not so, it is to be recollected that the motion there was for a criminal information, which is a matter of discretion and not of right, and moreover that the doctrine as to the legality of publishing proceedings of courts of justice was then recently held without those qualifications and restrictions which, as I think, common sense, and the obvious good of the community at large, have compelled the judges since that time to engraft upon it.

On the other hand, the cases of *Donne v. Walsh* (b) *Ryder v. Cosyn* (c) and *Benyon v. Evelyn* (d) shew that the Courts of law have taken cognisance of such questions, and have decided contrary to the known claims of the House for its members: and whether it be true or not that Sir *Orlando Bridgman* made a gratuitous and unnecessary display in the latter case, this is certain, that his learned and laboured judgment must have excited, and did excite, great attention, and yet the decision was acquiesced in. It is true that we have no evidence of the direct interference of the House in that

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.
Patterson J.

(a) 1 M. & S. 373.

(b) 1 Hats. Prec. 41.

(c) 1 Hats. Pr. 42.

(d) O. Bridgman's judgments, 324.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.
Patteson J.

case; neither could they constitutionally interfere as a body, inasmuch as no act of theirs, as a body, was brought into question; but no one doubts that the claim of the member was in reality the claim of the House. To that case may be added *Fitzharris's Case* (a), and that of *The Duchess of Somerset v. The Earl of Manchester* (b), and the memorable cases of *Ashby v. White* (c), and *Regina v. Paty* (d), and *Knollys's Case* (e). I do not mention these last cases as showing that the jurisdiction of the Courts of law, in matters said to concern the privileges of parliament, has been conceded by the House of Commons, but as showing that it has not been decided that such jurisdiction in no case exists: and in *Ashby v. White* (c) there was strong ground for maintaining that the House of Commons had exclusive jurisdiction over the subject as a Court of judicature, though I think not sufficient ground; whereas, on the present question there is no possible ground for so saying. I agree that the case of *Rex v. Williams* (g) is not to be relied on. The political character of it, the violence of the times, and the just dread of arbitrary power in the Crown, which occasioned the allusion to it in the Bill of Rights, deprive it of authority as a solemn judgment of the Court. Yet it is plain that the Speaker of the House of Commons could not be justified, even under the law of privilege as declared by the resolution of the 31st of May 1837, in publishing *Dangerfield's Narrative*, which was no part of the proceedings of the House: and the bare authority of the House could alone be set up as his justification, which I have already shown to be insufficient for that purpose.

(a) 8 How. St. Tr. 223.

(b) *Prynne's Reg.* Part 4, 1214.

(c) 2 Ld. Ray. 938.

(d) 2 Ld. Ray. 1105.

(e) 12 How. St. Tr. 1167.

(g) 13 How. St. Tr. 1369.

Another

Another ground may be taken to shew that *Res v. Williams* (a) was not a right decision, that the thing done by him, viz. the order to publish, may be said to have been done *in the House*, and so not to be *cognizable by the Courts* of law. Yet the man himself, for whose benefit the publication took place, *Dangerfield*, was committed and punished for publishing the very same thing out of the House. That which was reprobated in *Williams's Case* (a) was the prosecution, by the officer of the *Crown*, of the Speaker of the House for an act done by him as such Speaker. The legality of such an act, as regarded private individuals, was in no way brought under review. And the Bill of Rights (b) plainly points at prosecutions for proceedings in parliament only.

I do not particularly advert to the other cases cited from *Hatsell* and other books; for they really do not appear to me to bear materially upon this part of the case, or indeed upon any of the questions raised upon this record. The supposed mischief of an appeal to the House of Lords cannot surely prevent this Court from adjudicating on the question. Indeed the Attorney-General asks us to pronounce judgment for the defendants, because the House of Commons have resolved that we are bound to do so; yet upon that judgment a writ of error will lie just as much as if we give judgment for the plaintiff. To avoid such inconvenience, if it be important to do so, some legal mode should have been found of making it unnecessary for us to give any judgment at all: but no such mode can be found. The analogy attempted to be established, upon the argument, from decisions of Courts of exclusive

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.
Patterson J.

(a) 13 *How. St. Tr.* 1369.(b) *Stat. 1 W. & M. sess. 2. c. 2. s. 1.*

jurisdiction,

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.
Patteson J.

jurisdiction, appears to me not to hold good. The instances adduced are in respect of matters admitted to be within the exclusive jurisdiction of such Courts, whether ecclesiastical, or courts of admiralty, or foreign courts, and in which they have in the particular case come to a decision, and so the matter has passed in rem judicatam; but none have been or can be cited where a decision of any of those courts, that a particular matter is within its exclusive jurisdiction, has been allowed to be binding upon other courts as to that position, and to oust them of their right of jurisdiction: it may be that in some cases there is concurrent jurisdiction: and, as I have before observed, the resolution of *May 1837* cannot be considered to have been passed by the House of Commons *as a court* either legislative, judicial, or inquisitorial, or of any other description. Cases were cited by the Attorney-General, where the Court of Exchequer had taken from the other courts of law proceedings pending before them; but they were cases of revenue belonging by the King's prerogative peculiarly to that Court, and in which that Court had confessedly exclusive jurisdiction.

Some cases were also cited where the House of Lords had compelled parties to relinquish proceedings in the courts of law in respect of matters occurring *in* that House, as to which it is conceded that the courts of law cannot have cognizance.

It is further argued that, if this Court can entertain this question, so can the most inferior Court of Record in the kingdom, where the matter arises within its jurisdiction. I admit it to be so; but I can see no reason why the mere resolution of the House should preclude an inferior court from the enquiry, any more than

than this Court: nor can I see anything derogatory to the dignity of the House in such inquiry.

Upon the whole the true doctrine appears to me to be this: that every court in which an action is brought upon a subject-matter generally and *prima facie* within its jurisdiction, and in which, by the course of the proceedings in that action, the powers and privileges and jurisdiction of another court come into question, must of necessity determine as to the extent of those powers, privileges, and jurisdiction: that the decisions of that court, whose powers, privileges and jurisdiction are so brought into question, as to their extent, are authorities, and, if I may so say, evidences in law upon the subject, but not conclusive. In the present case, therefore, both upon principle and authority, I conceive that this Court is not precluded by the resolution of the House of Commons of *May* 1837 from inquiring into the legality of the act complained of, although we are bound to treat that resolution with all possible respect, and not by any means to come to a decision contrary to that resolution unless we find ourselves compelled to do so by the law of the land, gathered from the principles of the common law, so far as they are applicable to the case, and from the authority of decided cases, and the judgments of our predecessors, if any be found which bear upon the question.

I come then to the third question: Whether the act complained of be legal or not. I do not conceal from myself that, in considering this point, the resolution of the House of Commons of 31st *May* 1837 is directly called in question; but, for the reasons I have already given, I am of opinion that this Court is, not
only

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Patteson J.

1889.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.
Patteson J.

only competent, but bound, to consider the validity of that resolution, paying all possible respect, and giving all due weight, to the authority from which it emanates.

The privilege, or rather power (for that is the word used), which that resolution declares to be an essential incident to the constitutional functions of parliament, is attempted to be supported, first, by shewing that it has been long exercised and acquiesced in; secondly, that it is absolutely necessary to the legislative and inquisitorial functions of the House.

First, as to exercise and acquiescence. I am far from saying that, in order to support any privilege or practice of parliament, or of either House, it is necessary to show that such privilege or practice has existed from time of legal memory. That point was disposed of by Lord *Ellenborough*, in the course of the argument in *Burdett v. Abbot* (a). Long usage, commencing since the two Houses sat separately (if indeed they ever sat together, as to which I do not stop to inquire, nor *when* they separated, as being wholly immaterial to this question), may be abundantly sufficient to establish the legality of such privilege or practice.

Now, with respect to the exercise of the power in question, I conceive that such exercise is matter of history, and therefore that the observation of Mr. Attorney-General, that he ought not to be called upon in arguing a demurrer to prove matter of *fact*, is not well founded. *If*, indeed, the plea had stated that the Commons' House of Parliament had been used to exercise this power, the demurrer would have admitted the exercise, but no such averment appears upon the face of the plea; and the historical fact of the exercise

(a) 14 *East*, 1. See the judgment of Lord *Ellenborough*, p. 139.

of the power is introduced by the defendants' counsel himself, in order to argue thence that the power must be legal. The onus of showing that it is so lies upon the defendants; for it is certainly *primâ facie* contrary to the common law. It is very remarkable that no mention is made of this alleged power of the House of Commons in any book of authority, or by any text writer. It is no where enumerated among the privileges or powers of the House. After the utmost research by the learned counsel who so ably argued this case, he has not furnished us with a single passage from any author, nor have I found any, in which even a hint is thrown out that the House of Commons has power to order defamatory matter appearing upon its proceedings to be published, and to protect the publisher from the consequences which generally attach upon the publication of such matter. Surely if such a power had really existed, some notice of it would have been taken by *Hatsell* or *Blackstone*, or some other writer, in commenting upon parliamentary privilege: and the absence of all such notice, is to me a strong circumstance to shew that it really never existed. The first instance of the House *printing* anything appears to have been in the year 1641. It is indeed argued by Mr. Attorney-General that, although the votes and proceedings of the House do not appear to have been *printed* and published before that time, yet that doubtless some other mode of publication, either at the Sheriffs' Courts or some other occasions of public meeting, must have been adopted. As to which argument, I must say that it appears to me to be a purely gratuitous assertion without the semblance of probability. Acts of parliament, that is, new laws, appear to have been so promulgated; but there is
not

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANNAH.
Patterson J.

1889.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.
Patteson J.

not a trace to be found, that I am aware of, of the votes and proceedings of either House separately having been so dealt with.

The exercise of this power cannot therefore be said to have commenced earlier than 1641, a most suspicious time in the history of this country for the acquisition of a new power by the House of Commons. From 1641 to 1680 it appears that specific votes and proceedings only were printed from time to time by special resolutions. The papers first printed appear to relate entirely to the contest between the King and the House, and were, no doubt, intended for general circulation; but surely it is impossible to contend that a practice arising out of the unfortunate and violent state of the times can be supported, unless other reasons applicable to quiet and ordinary times can be assigned for its continuance. In 1680 the first general order for printing the votes and proceedings of the House is made, and, with the exception of a short time during the year 1702 (*a*), has been continued to the present time. The votes and proceedings so printed appear also to have been sold during that time, whether as a perquisite of the officers or not is perhaps not very material; and no question has arisen respecting the legality of the practice. The votes and proceedings so printed appear to have been recognized by the House of Lords as authentic documents; upon which however I do not see that much stress can be laid, inasmuch as the fact of their being printed under the order of the House of Commons must of necessity authenticate them, whether it were legal so to print them or not. These votes and proceedings are quite distinct

(*a*) See Report from the Select Committee, &c., p. 2, s. 12.

from

from reports and miscellaneous papers printed for the House, and do not seem to have contained at any time matters defamatory to private individuals: and therefore the absence of any attempt to question their legality can hardly be treated as any acquiescence. No one was aggrieved.

With respect to reports and miscellaneous papers printed for the use of the House, it appears that no general order for their publication and sale was made until the resolution of 1835, set out in the plea in this action. Many resolutions were passed from time to time as to the printing and publishing specific papers; and many of those papers were of such a nature that private individuals may have felt themselves aggrieved, and may have found in them matters defamatory to themselves, for which actions at law might plainly have been maintained, if published under ordinary circumstances unconnected with the House; and it is, as I apprehend, upon the absence of any trace of such actions with respect to such papers that the argument with regard to acquiescence mainly rests. The argument is undoubtedly entitled to consideration: it has been frequently used in other cases, and much weight has been given to it by great authorities, particularly by Mr. Justice Buller in the case of *Le Caux v. Eden* (a): but it is obvious that the weight of it much depends upon the nature of the injury sustained, the relative power of the person inflicting it, and the person sustaining it, and the greater or less difficulties with which the remedy is surrounded. If these points be attended to, it is hardly possible to imagine a case less likely to be brought forward than that of a man who found that he

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HARRIS.
Pitterson J.

(a) 2 Doug. 594. See p. 602.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Patterson J.

was defamed in a paper published by the order of the House of Commons as part of their proceedings: not to mention that in very many instances, especially if due discrimination was exercised, as I cannot help thinking was formerly the case, the defamatory matter was strictly true, and therefore an action would be useless, and criminal proceedings equally so, as regarded any remuneration to the party complaining. The fear of contending with so powerful a body must operate very strongly in deterring persons from bringing actions, and may well account for the attempt never having been made. In the case of *Lake v. King* (a), indeed, the attempt was made to render a petitioner to the House of Commons liable in damages to a person who was defamed in his petition which he had printed for circulation amongst the members of the House. The action was held not to lie, the distribution of the publication having been confined to the members of the House. The exercise of the power by the House, until 1835, appears to have been by special order, directing sometimes that papers be printed for the use of the House, sometimes that they be printed (generally), sometimes that they be also published; and they appear to have been sold by officers of the House as a perquisite, until in 1835 the resolution set out in the plea was come to, that they should be sold by the defendants to the public in general, the object being, so far as it can be collected from the resolution, to defray the expences of printing that which was requisite for the use of the members, not to give any important or necessary information to the constituents of the different members of the House.

(a) 1 Saund. 131.

It is said that the House of Lords has constantly ordered the printing and publishing of papers and proceedings, and that no instance occurs of any action having been brought against the publisher. The same observations apply to such practice in that House as have already been urged with respect to the House of Commons, except as relating to *trials* in the House of Lords. They are proceedings in an open court of justice, and may properly be considered under the second ground on which this power is supposed to exist, namely, the necessity for it.

Beyond all dispute it is necessary that the proceedings of each House of Parliament should be entirely free and unshackled; that *whatever is done or said in either House should not be liable to examination elsewhere*; therefore no order of either House can itself be treated as a libel, as the Attorney-General supposed it might if this action would lie. No such consequence will follow.

The power claimed is said to be necessary to the due performance both of the legislative and inquisitorial functions of the House. In all the cases and authorities, from the earliest times hitherto, the powers which have been claimed by the House of Commons for itself and its members, in relation to the rest of the community, have been either some privilege properly so called, *i. e.*, an exemption from some duty, burden, attendance, or liability to which others are subject, or the power of sending for and examining all persons and things, and the punishing all contempts committed against their authority. Both of these powers proceed on the same ground, *viz.* the necessity that the House of Commons and the members thereof should in no way be obstructed in the performance of their high and import-

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANBARD.
Patterson J.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Patteson J.

ant duties, and that, if the House be so obstructed, either collectively, or in the persons of the individual members, the remedy should be in its own hands, and immediate, without the delay of resorting to the ordinary tribunals of the country. Hence liberty of speech within the walls of the House, freedom from arrest, and from some other restraints and duties during the sitting of parliament, and for a reasonable time before and after its sitting (with the exception of treason, felony, and breach of the peace), which, although the privileges, properly so styled, of the individual members, are yet the privileges of the House. Hence the power of committing for contempt those who obstruct their proceedings, either directly, by attacks upon the body or any of its members, or indirectly, by vilifying or otherwise opposing its lawful authority. Cases have frequently arisen, in which the extent and exercise of these privileges and powers have come in question: and I believe that all such cases will be found to range themselves under one of the two heads I have mentioned. But this is, I believe, the first time in which a question has arisen as to the power of the House to authorize an act prejudicial to an individual who has neither directly or indirectly obstructed the proceedings of the House, and is in no way amenable to its authority. The decision of *Lake v. King* (a), which I mentioned before, proceeded on similar grounds of necessity.

Every facility ought undoubtedly to be given to all persons applying to either House of Parliament or to any court of justice for the redress of any alleged grievance; and it would be most inconvenient to hold such persons liable to actions for anything contained in such

(a) 1 *Saund.* 131.

applications, as libel; but, when those who are applied to circulate generally by sale such defamatory matters, the case assumes a very different character. In the case of *Fairman v. Ives* (a) a petition addressed by the creditor of an officer in the army to Lord *Palmerston* the Secretary at War was held not to be actionable, although containing defamatory matter; but can it be doubted that if Lord *Palmerston* had ordered it to be published, the publisher would have been liable to an action; or can it be contended that the Secretary of State, to whom the report and reply on which this action is brought were, by act of parliament, directed to be sent, to be by him laid before the parliament, would have been justified in publishing them? and, if not, why should the House of Commons be at liberty to do so? In the same manner the protection of all confidential communications extends no further than the necessity of each particular case requires.

It is said that, if papers, however defamatory, must needs be printed for the use of the members, as it is plain they must, and the point is not disputed, their further circulation cannot be avoided, for what is to be done with the copies upon a dissolution of parliament, or upon the death or retirement of a member? The answer is obvious, — the copy of such defamatory matter ought to be destroyed, as it can no longer be used for the purpose for which it was intended: — at all events it must not be communicated to others. But it is said that the constituents have a right to watch over the conduct of their representatives, and therefore to know what passes in the House. The House itself is of a different opinion; for it is only by sufferance that any

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANBARD.
Patteson J.

(a) 5 B. & Ald. 642.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.
Patteson J.

one is allowed to be present at its debates; it is only by sufferance that the debates are allowed to be published; and it is only by the special permission of the House that its votes, and proceedings, and papers are communicated to the public, and that in the manner in which they think fit to order. If the constituents had a right to know all that passes, or if the House of Commons were an open court, then indeed there might be some colour for saying that it was necessary to publish all its proceedings. It is upon the ground that courts of justice are open to the public, that what passes there is public at the time, and that it is important that all persons should be able to scrutinize what is there done, that the publication of every thing which there passes has been thought to be lawful. I for one do not go that length, but think, with some judges of great name who have gone before me, that the doctrine is to be taken with much limitation; but I feel sure that it cannot apply to a Court which is not open, whose proceedings in contemplation of law are secret at the time they take place, and to whom *ex parte* statements, often grossly defamatory, are made without the defamed person having any opportunity of being heard, and indeed often without the possibility of any inquiry being instituted; and it is not impossible, if such indiscriminate publication and sale be continued by the House of Commons, that petitions containing the grossest libels against the most innocent individuals may be purposely and maliciously presented to that Honourable House, by persons who seek to publish and sell them with impunity, and to make the House most unconsciously the instrument of circulating their slander. It is the nature of the proceedings themselves which justifies, if

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at all, the publication of what passes in a court of justice; and *any person* may therefore publish them: but the proceedings of the House of Commons cannot be published without the authority of the House; the right to publish does not result from the nature of the thing published, but from the leave obtained from the House; and this alone shows that it cannot be matter of necessity for the information of the constituents. I do not say that it may not be conducive to the public interests to inform the world at large of much that passes in the House; but I do say that it cannot be conducive to the public interests to circulate private slander; and that, in the exercise of a due discrimination as to what part of its proceedings shall be published, the House of Commons is bound to take care that such private slander be not circulated by its authority.

But it is said to be necessary in order to obtain the requisite information for the members in any legislative or inquisitorial measure. This ground is still less tenable: the House is armed with ample powers to send for all persons who can give them information either before a committee, or at the bar of the House. It can never be necessary to sell indiscriminately to every body, in order to take the chance of some person volunteering information to the House. Will it be said that any one ever did volunteer information in consequence of such publications by the House, or that the House ever waited and paused in its deliberations or its votes, in order to see whether any one would so volunteer? It is not pretended that such has been the fact. Whether any individual member might or might not be justified in communicating to some persons out of the House defamatory matter printed for the use of the

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Patteson J.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Patteson J.

House, I cannot pretend to say. Probably, upon any such question arising, the decision will lie with a jury; but I would by no means bind myself to any opinion on that subject: this is the case of an open sale to all who choose to buy, not justified by any peculiar circumstances attending this case above others.

Where then is the necessity for this power? Privileges, that is, immunities and safeguards, are necessary for the protection of the House of Commons, in the exercise of its high functions. All the subjects of this realm have derived, are deriving, and I trust and believe will continue to derive, the greatest benefits from the exercise of those functions. All persons ought to be very tender in preserving to the House all privileges which may be necessary for their exercise, and to place the most implicit confidence in their representatives as to the due exercise of those privileges. But *power*, and especially the power of invading the rights of others, is a very different thing: it is to be regarded, not with tenderness, but with jealousy; and, unless the legality of it be most clearly established, those who act under it must be answerable for the consequences. The onus of shewing the existence and legality of the power now claimed lies upon the defendants: it appears to me, after a full and anxious consideration of the reasons and authorities adduced by the Attorney-General in his learned argument, and after much reflection upon the subject, that they have entirely failed to do so: and I am therefore of opinion that the plaintiff is entitled to our judgment in his favour.

Coleridge J.

COLERIDGE J. I concur with the rest of the Court in thinking that this plea discloses no sufficient answer to

to the declaration; and, if my brother *Patteson*, after the full and satisfactory discussion which the question had *then* received, felt reluctant to state his reasons at length, it may well be seen how much more ground there is *now* for me to desire that I might be allowed simply to express my concurrence. But the unusual importance of the principles involved in the decision, and the profound respect due to those whose privileges are said to be at stake in the cause, seem to require that I also should state the reasoning by which I have arrived at this conclusion; and I have the consolation at least to feel certain that I *cannot* weaken the just effect upon this audience of what has already been stated. I shall not, however, think it necessary to notice all the points which have been made, or to comment on more than a few of the authorities cited in the argument. It would, indeed, be impossible to do this within any now reasonable bounds; and, in my opinion, the questions on which the cause must turn are so elementary, whatever difficulty there may be in them, that they must after all be decided chiefly upon principle.

Two great questions have been discussed upon the argument; and I shall consider the plea as sufficiently raising them in substance, although I cannot say that they are raised so simply and unambiguously as I should have expected, as well from the great learning and ability and industry employed in framing it, as from the dignity of that high body on behalf of which we are informed that it has been pleaded. The first, and immeasurably the more important, of these is, whether it be competent to the Court, after the disclosure by the plea that the House of Commons has declared itself to have the power of publishing any report, vote,

1899.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.
Coleridge J.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Coleridge J.

or proceeding, the publication whereof it deems necessary or conducive to the public interests, to inquire whether by law the House has such power. Although not in form a plea to the jurisdiction, and wanting one essential incident to such a plea, if we answer this question in the affirmative it would in effect lead to much the same consequences. We should not indeed dismiss the plaintiff from our Court to another tribunal competent to give him relief, for none such is alleged to exist; but we should give judgment against him ministerially rather than judicially, on the ground that the act complained of was done in the exercise of a power, as to which the whole jurisdiction, both to declare its existence and to decide on the propriety of its exercise in the individual case, was beyond our competence, and exclusively in the body by whom the very act was done. According to this argument, the plea in form leaves a matter for our decision, but in substance prescribes conclusively the judgment to be pronounced. It must be admitted that this is a very startling conclusion: and certainly it must not be confounded with cases to which it has been likened, where, the question in a cause turning upon foreign law or any of those branches of our own law administered in courts of peculiar jurisdiction, we decide it, not according to the common law, but according to what we suppose would have been the decision in the foreign or the peculiar court. We are undoubtedly bound so to do; in one sense we have no discretion to do otherwise; that is, we cannot be influenced by any consideration, whether that decision would be satisfactory to our own minds as *English* or common lawyers; but still we exercise a judicial discretion, the same in kind, as in
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deciding on a question of the common or statute law; for we inquire, by such lights as we can procure, what that law, foreign or peculiar, may be; and, when we have ascertained it, we apply the facts to it, and decide accordingly. Neither, again, is this to be confounded with cases in which, after an adjudication by a foreign or peculiar court upon the same facts between the same parties, one shall bring the other before us in the way of original suit; there indeed, and upon a distinct principle, if the fact of such adjudication be properly pleaded and proved, or admitted, the further agitation of the question will not be permitted: we do not profess to decide upon the merits of the case: the existence of the former judgment in full force is, by our own law itself, a legal bar to the second recovery or a new agitation of the matter. We are now, however, called upon to abstain from all inquiry, in a case in which the existence of the law is not substantively alleged in the plea (for as the House, it is admitted, cannot make the law, the resolution declaring it is only *evidence* of its existence, and not an *allegation* of it), where it does not appear that the particular facts have ever been adjudicated on, and where the particular order, under which the act complained of was done, is not distinctly brought within the law as said to have been declared.

All this, however, has been maintained upon the footing of privilege. It is said the Commons have declared that they have this privilege, and the act has been done in the exercise of the privilege, but a court of law can neither inquire whether they have the privilege, nor whether the case falls within it, because the House of Commons alone is to judge of its own privileges: the Court, therefore, to use the words of the

Attorney-

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.
Coleridge J.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Coleridge J.

Attorney-General, has "nothing to do but to give judgment for the Defendants."

Now it will be observed that one and the same reason in terms is here assigned for two widely differing conclusions; and it may therefore well be that the proposition may have two different senses, and be true in one though false in the other. No one in the least degree acquainted with the constitution of the country will doubt that in one sense the House is alone to judge of its own privileges, that in the case of a recognised privilege the House alone can judge whether it has been infringed, and how the breach is to be punished. This concession, however, will not satisfy the advocates of privilege, nor the exigencies of the defendant's case. The Attorney-General contends that the House is alone and exclusively judge of its own privileges, in the sense that it alone is competent to declare their number and extent, and that whatever the House shall resolve to be a privilege is by such resolution conclusively demonstrated to have been so immemorially.

This proposition must be tried by the tests of principle and authority. And, first, it is not immaterial to observe that privileges, though various in their kinds and effects, are all understood to be comprehended within the proposition; and I at once admit that no distinction can be made; for all privileges must be ultimately referred to the same source, the effective discharge of those duties which by the constitution are cast upon the House of Commons. At the same time it is obvious that, in effect and in feeling, those privileges which become personal immunities to individual members, and those which are public and can be exercised

cised only by the whole body in discharge of some public duty, are very different; and, when we are considering on principle the reasonableness of the proposition contended for, it must not be laid out of sight that the same rule is to be extended to that which the pride, the passions, and the self-interest of members may naturally be tempted to extend, and to that which the whole body, for the efficient discharge of its great public duties, may have thought it requisite to demand of the constitution. That this is not an idle apprehension the cases cited from the journals by the plaintiff's counsel abundantly demonstrate.

I next observe that the power to make any new privilege has been, as was necessary, distinctly disclaimed; the House, it is said, only acts judicially in declaring the law of parliament. We must however look to the substance of things: and, as that cannot be done indirectly which it is unlawful to do directly, if it shall appear that the power claimed is in effect equivalent to that which is disclaimed, a strong presumption at least is raised against the validity of the claim. Now what, in effect, is the right to declare the extent of privilege conclusively but irresponsible and uncontrollable power to make it? At present we know, or we fancy we know, the limits of privilege, in certain cases at least; for example, we have been taught that the House of Commons cannot administer an oath to a witness: let me suppose the House to resolve to-morrow that it has the power to do so, and that it is a breach of privilege to deny it; if the Attorney-General's argument be correct, that power not merely is thenceforth, but from time immemorial has been, inherent in the House; and every judge and lawyer must forget all that he has been learned before,

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HARRARD.
Coleridge J.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Coleridge J.

before, and is forbidden to enquire even into the previous acts or declarations of the same branch of the legislature upon the same subject; although the journals of the House might teem with conclusive proof that no such power existed, it would not be lawful for this Court to borrow light from them; it must acquiesce in the new declaration, and deny its relief to any one suffering under it. Yet what would be in effect the result, but that the House would have thus acquired for itself a power which no lawyer could doubt it did not possess before? I have put a case drawn from within the range of those which fall under the admitted province of privilege; but the same reasoning will apply to cases entirely unconnected with it, cases which have really nothing to do with the duties or proceedings of the House. It would be easy to put striking instances of this kind; but they may be summed up at once, and without the least exaggeration, in the remark, that there is nothing dear to us, our property, liberty, lives or characters, which, if this proposition be true, is not, *by the constitution* of the country, placed at the mercy of the resolutions of a single branch of the legislature.

Three answers, however, are made to such a supposition; first, it is said that paramount and irresponsible power must be lodged somewhere, and that it can nowhere be so safely lodged as with the representatives of the people; secondly, that it is not seemly to presume nor sound to argue from presumed abuses of power by so august a body; thirdly, that in truth what has been urged by way of objection with regard to the House of Commons might equally be said in the matter of contempts of this or any other court of judicature.

As to the first, I would observe that, by the theory of the

the advocates for privilege, *they* cannot argue this as a question of power; they limit themselves in terms to jurisdiction; they claim only an absolute jurisdiction; I answer that is in effect *uncontrollable* power: if they reply by an admission and a justification of that which I object, they must at least abandon their disclaimer of it, and acknowledge that they do in effect contend for the right not merely to declare, but to make privileges. But, if they justify the claim by asserting that absolute and irresponsible power must be lodged somewhere, and that it can no where be so safely lodged as with the representatives of the people, I take leave respectfully to dissent from both branches of the proposition.

As to the first, I will not waste time by examining those extreme cases with regard even to the entire legislature, in which, according to the theory of the constitution, even its so called omnipotence is limited; cases wisely not specified, nor in terms provided for, because they are beyond the constitution, and, when they unhappily arise, resolve society in its original elements. But, if the assertion be applied to any body in the state, or any court for the administration of justice, civil or criminal, there is neither the one nor the other which by the constitution claims absolute power in the sense in which it is now claimed for the Commons. Every question which comes before a court of justice must be one of law or fact; and, as to either, the decision may be wrong through error or corruption; but our constitution has been careful, almost to an extreme, in providing the means of correcting it in both cases, and for punishing it in judge or jury, when it can be traced to corruption. It is true that, as to errors in law, there must be some limit to the series of courts of revision;

and

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Coleridge J.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.
Coleridge J.

and it is supposable that the court of last resort may persist in the error of the original decision. But even in that extreme case the constitution fails not, for the parliament may then interfere (and has done so in some cases) to reverse and annul the erroneous decision.

Denying as I do the first branch of the proposition, it is not necessary for me, and would not comport with the profound respect which I feel for the House of Commons, to give my reasons for doubting the second.

But it is said, secondly, that the argument is founded on presumed abuse of power by the House of Commons; that such an argument is not sound in reasoning, nor seemly as applied to so august a body. I agree that it is not seemly, and I disclaim the intention of using it; yet, when I am considering merely the antecedent reasonableness of the defendant's argument, I cannot pretend to forget what the journals of the House have been shewn to contain, nor to be ignorant that it is of the very nature of irresponsible power, especially in the hands of a large body, to run to excess. I believe, however, that among those who now claim this power are the men who would be the very last to abuse it. But the truth is, that the answer is beside the question; for the cases are put merely to try the truth of a universal proposition; and by the strictest rules of reasoning you may apply even extreme cases to test the truth of such propositions. My opponent in argument asserts that in all cases the House may declare conclusively that it possesses this or that privilege; I deny the truth of that, because, if true, the House would be able to commit *by law* this or that monstrous act of tyranny or injustice: he may in return either deny my assertion, or admit it; if he deny it, he will soon find that he must abandon his first claim also;

if

if he admit it, then my argument is, that, whether in fact the consequence will happen seldom or often, or it may be never, that cannot be law from which such a consequence *may* in natural course follow.

To the third answer, I have already given the necessary reply in considering the first. I will only, in addition, point out how wide the distinction is between the declaration of the House of Commons in a matter of privilege, where itself is judge and party, and where the law provides no means of revision in any individual case, and the decision, even erroneous, even corrupt, of a court of justice between contending parties. I do not forget, but reserve for another place, the case of committals for contempts, which will be found, both as regards the House and Courts of justice, to fall more properly under a different consideration.

But it is said that this and all other courts of law are inferior in dignity to the House of Commons, and that therefore it is impossible for us to review its decisions. This argument appears to me founded on a misunderstanding of several particulars; first, in what sense it is that this court is inferior to the House of Commons; next, in what sense the House is a court at all; and, lastly, in what sense we are now assuming to meddle with any of its decisions. Vastly inferior as this court is to the House of Commons, considered as a body in the state, and amenable as its members may be for ill conduct in their office to its animadversions, and certainly are to its impeachment before the Lords, yet, as a Court of law, we know no superior but those courts which may revise our judgments for error; and in this respect there is no common term of comparison between this Court and the House.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Coleridge J.

In

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Coleridge J.

In truth, the House is not a court of law at all, in the sense in which that term can alone be properly applied here; neither originally, nor by appeal, can it decide a matter in litigation between two parties: it has no means of doing so; it claims no such power: powers of inquiry and of accusation it has, but it decides nothing judicially, except where it is itself a party, in the case of contempts. As to them no question of degree arises between courts; and, in the only sense therefore in which this argument would be of weight, it does not apply. In any other sense the argument is of no force. Considered merely as resolutions or acts, I have yet to learn that this Court is to be restrained by the dignity or the power of any body, however exalted, from fearlessly, though respectfully, examining their reasonableness and justice, where the rights of third persons, in litigation before us, depend upon their validity. But I deny that this inquiry tends to the reversal of any decision of the House; the general resolution and the *res judicanda* are not identical; the House of Commons has never decided upon the fact on which the plaintiff tendered an issue: that argument will be found by and by to apply to the cases of committal for contempt, but it has no place in the consideration immediately before me.

Again, it is said that the jurisdiction of the House must be exclusive, because it proceeds, not by the common law, of which alone we are cognisant, but by a different law, the parliamentary law, of which we are wholly ignorant. I cannot think that this argument is entitled to much weight. It is every day's practice with us to decide cases which turn upon the laws of foreign countries, or the laws administered in courts of peculiar jurisdiction in this country. Of these we have no judicial know-
ledge;

ledge; but we acquire the necessary knowledge by evidence; and it is not denied that, where in a cause the question of privilege arises incidentally, this Court must take notice of it and inquire into its existence and extent. What therefore it must do in some cases where the same difficulty exists, there can be no moral impossibility on that account of its doing in all.

This objection, however, leads me to observe that cases of privilege so called will often arise, where the question will be, not merely whether the privilege does exist, but whether the claim made can be reduced at all under any true definition of privilege. Privilege, if it be any thing but the mere declaration of the present will of the body claiming it, must be capable of some general fixed definition, however it may vary in degrees in different bodies. No lawyer, I suppose, now supports the doctrine of *Blackstone* (a), that the dignity of the Houses, and their independence, are in great measure preserved by keeping their privileges indefinite. But of privilege in the general we must be competent to form some opinion, because we have from time to time to deal with our own privileges. Let me suppose, by way of illustration, an extreme case; the House of Commons resolves that any one wearing a dress of a particular manufacture is guilty of a breach of privilege, and orders the arrest of such persons by the constable of the parish. An arrest is made and action brought, to which the order of the House is pleaded as a justification. The Attorney-General has said that it is always a question of privilege, when it is a question whether the House has power to order the act complained of to be done; and that this question arises directly, whenever it appears by the record that the

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HARRARD.
Coleridge J.

(a) 1 *Bla. Comm.* 164.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Coleridge J.

action is for that which the House has ordered to be done. In such a case as the one supposed, the plaintiff's counsel would insist on the distinction between power and privilege; and no lawyer can seriously doubt that it exists: but the argument confounds them, and forbids us to enquire, in any particular case, whether it ranges under the one or the other. I can find no principle which sanctions this.

I proceed now to examine a few and but a few of the very numerous authorities cited on this question. It does not appear to me at all necessary to go through many; for, whatever may be the weight of instances of acquiescence by individuals in the acts of the House of Commons, and, generally speaking, I consider it to be little or none, it is not so as between the House of Commons and the courts of judicature. The House has for centuries been feelingly alive upon questions of privilege; and for centuries it has been the most powerful body in the state: if therefore I find, in several well considered cases, the courts disclaiming to be bound by the resolutions of the House as to their privileges, and actually adjudicating upon them, without any or only with ineffectual remonstrance, I cannot but think such instances entitled to the greatest respect, and to be of quite sufficient force to establish a proposition which in itself is so consonant to reason.

I know it will be said that, in many of the cases alluded to, the question of privilege has arisen incidentally only, and that in such, ex necessitate, the courts have interfered. In what sense "incidentally" is here used, has been often asked, and never as yet quite satisfactorily answered; in what sense a greater necessity exists in the one case than the other, has not been made out. The cases of habeas corpus are generally put

put as instances where the question arises directly. Let me suppose the return to state a commitment by the Speaker under a resolution of the House ordering the party to capital punishment for a larceny committed; it will hardly be said that a stronger case of necessity to interfere could be supposed; and yet it must be admitted, on the other hand, that the question of privilege or power, between which the argument for the defendants makes no difference, would arise directly. A case therefore may be supposed in which it would be necessary to interfere, even where the so doing would be a direct adjudication upon the act of the House. It should seem, then, that some other test must be applied to ascertain in what sense it is true that the House can alone declare, and adjudicate upon, its own privileges.

I venture, with great diffidence, to submit the view which I have taken on these embarrassing questions, not as claiming the suspicious merit of novelty, but as one which will at least remove all difficulties in theory, and be found, I believe, not inconsistent with the general course of authorities. I say general course; for, during so long a series, carried through times so differing in political bias, and between such parties as either house of parliament on the one side, and the courts of law, individual judges, or litigant suitors, on the other, it would be quite idle to expect that any one uniform principle should be found to have invariably prevailed. In the first place, I apprehend that the question of privilege arises directly wherever the House has adjudicated upon the very fact between the parties, and there only; wherever this appears, and the case *may be* one of privilege, no court ought to enquire whether the House has adjudicated properly or not; but whether

1839.

 STOCKDALE
 against
 HANSARD.

Coleridge J.

1839.

 STOCKDALE
 against

HANSARD.

Coleridge J.

directly arising, or not, a court of law I conceive must take notice of the distinction between privilege and power; and, where the act has not been done within the House (for of no act there done can any tribunal, in my opinion, take cognisance but the House itself), and is clearly of a nature transcending the legal limits of privilege, it will proceed against the doer as a transgressor of the law.

To apply these principles to the cases in which, on the return to a habeas corpus, it appears that the House has committed for a contempt in the breach of its privileges, I subscribe entirely to the decisions, and I agree also with the dicta which in some of them the Court has thrown out on supposed extreme cases. In every one of these cases the House has actually adjudicated on the very point raised in the return, and the committal is in execution of its judgment. In all of them the warrant, or order, has set out that which on the face of it either clearly is, or may be, a breach of privilege, or it has contented itself with stating the party to have been guilty of a contempt without specifying the nature of it or the acts constituting it. *Brass Crosby's Case* (a) is an instance of the former; Lord *Shaftesbury's* (b) of the latter. The difference between the two is immaterial on the present question, which is one of jurisdiction only. Although in the case of an inferior court, over which this Court exercises a power of revision and controul even in matters directly within their cognisance, it will require to see the cause of committal in the warrant, yet, with regard to courts of so high a dignity as the Houses of parliament, if an adjudication be stated, gene-

(a) 3 *Wilson*, 188.(b) 1 *Mod.* 144.

rally for a contempt, as contempts are clearly within their cognisance, a respectful and a reasonable intendment will be made that the particular facts, on which the committal in question has proceeded, warranted it in point of jurisdiction; for the propriety of the adjudication, that being assumed, would of course not be to be enquired into. But in both cases the principle of the decision is, that there has been an adjudication by a court of competent jurisdiction. Thus in the former, *De Grey C. J.* says (a),

“When the House of Commons *adjudge* anything to be a contempt, or a breach of privilege, their *adjudication is a conviction*, and their commitment in consequence, is *execution*; and no court can discharge or bail a person that is in execution by the judgment of any other court. The House of Commons therefore *having an authority to commit*, and that commitment being an execution, the question is, what can this Court do? It can do nothing when *a person is in execution, by the judgment of a court having a competent jurisdiction*; in such case, this Court is not a court of appeal.”

And in the latter, in which the main contest was on the generality of the order of the Lords, *Rainsford C. J.* says (b), “The commitment, in this case, is not for safe custody, but he *is in execution on the judgment* given by the Lords for the contempt, and therefore if he be bailed, he will be delivered out of execution; because for a contempt *in facie curiæ* there is no other judgment or execution.”

The same principle will explain and justify the observations which have been made by different judges from time to time with regard to supposed cases, even of direct adjudication; and, if it should appear that the

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Coleridge J.

(a) 3 *Wils.* 199.(b) 1 *Mod.* 158.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.
Coleridge J.

vice objected to the proceeding is not of improper decision or excess of punishment, but a total want of jurisdiction, in other words, where it is contended that either House has not acted in the exercise of a privilege, but in the usurpation of a power, it cannot be doubted that the same judges, who were most cautious in restraining from interfering with privilege properly so called, would have asserted the right of the Court to restrain the undue exercise of power. The fact of adjudication then has no weight, because the court adjudging had no jurisdiction. Many such instances have been referred to in the argument. I pass over the luminous, and, as I think, still unanswered judgment of Lord Holt, in *Regina v. Paty*(a), which is bottomed on this principle; but I will cite, by way of illustration, the dicta of Lord Kenyon and Lord Ellenborough, whom I select, not only for their pre-eminent individual authority, but also because I can cite from their judgments in cases in which they were with a firm and favourable hand upholding the just privileges of the Commons. And it is satisfactory to see that the distinction was even then present to their minds.

Lord Kenyon, in *Rex v. Wright* (b), after saying, "this is a proceeding by one branch of the legislature, and therefore we cannot enquire into it," immediately qualifies the generality of that remark, by adding, "I do not say that cases may not be put in which we would enquire, whether or not the House of Commons were justified in any particular measure; if, for instance, they were to send their serjeant-at-arms to arrest a counsel here, who was arguing a case between two individuals,

(a) 2 *Ld. Ray.* 1012. And "The judgements," &c. cited, p. 55, note (b), *antè*.

(b) 8 *T. R.* 296.

or to grant an injunction to stay the proceedings here in a common action, undoubtedly we should pay no attention to it." In each case here supposed, there would have been a direct adjudication upon the very matter, and in each there would have been a claim of privilege; but the facts would have raised the preliminary question, whether privilege or not: into that enquiry Lord *Kenyon* would have felt himself bound to enter; and, when he had satisfied himself that there was no such privilege, the fact of adjudication would have become immaterial.

So in the most learned and able argument of *Holroyd* in *Burdett v. Abbot* (a), when he had put a case of the Speaker issuing his warrant by the direction of the House to put a man to death, Lord *Ellenborough* interposed thus: "*The question in all cases would be, whether the House of Commons were a court of competent jurisdiction for the purpose of issuing a warrant to do the act. You are putting an extravagant case. It is not pretended that the exercise of a general criminal jurisdiction is any part of their privileges. When that case occurs, which it never will, the question would be whether they had general jurisdiction to issue such an order; and no doubt the courts of justice would do their duty.*" This case again supposes an adjudication; but can language be more clear to shew the undoubting opinion of that great judge, that it would have been still open to this Court to enquire into the jurisdiction of the House; and can any one seriously believe that the fact of a previous declaration by the House, that they had such jurisdiction, would have been considered by him as shutting up that enquiry?

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.
Coleridge J.

(a) 14 *East*, 128.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Coleridge J.

Again, the same principle relieves me from all difficulty as to cases where, at first sight, the question appears to arise less directly, but where still the court of law would have to determine the case before it upon facts already directly adjudicated upon by the House. Such was the celebrated case of *Burdett v. Abbot* (a), in the decision of which I most heartily concur. There the action was trespass quare clausum fregit, and assault and false imprisonment; but the defence was a procedure in execution of a sentence of the House of Commons. If that sentence were pronounced by a competent court, it warranted all that was done; the only question that could be made upon any principle of law was the competency of the adjudicating court: and, the competency of the House to commit for a contempt being not seriously doubted, there was a direct adjudication, into the propriety of which this Court would not enquire. It could not enquire into it without trying over again what had already been decided in the House, *i. e.* whether Sir *Francis Burdett* had been guilty of a contempt; but this would have been contrary to the plainest principles of law. That this was the true principle of decision may be seen most simply from the narrow question put to the Judges by the Lords, and the short judgment of Lord *Eldon*, when the case came before the House on writ of error (b).

Neither have I any difficulty with any of the cases in which the question arises upon any thing said or done in the House. In point of reasoning, it needed not the authoritative declaration of the Bill of Rights to protect the freedom of speech, the debates or proceedings in

(a) 14 *East*, 1.

(b) 5 *Dow*, 199, 200.

parliament, from impeachment or question in any place out of parliament; and that the House should have exclusive jurisdiction to regulate the course of its own proceedings, and animadvert upon any conduct there in violation of its rules, or derogation from its dignity, stands upon the clearest grounds of necessity. The argument, therefore, with which we were pressed, that if the defendants were liable to this action, the Speaker who signed the order for printing, and the members who concurred in the resolutions, must be equally liable to be tried, on the ordinary principle of master and servant, has no foundation. It cannot be necessary to dwell on a distinction so well established; on the other hand, no conclusion in favour of the defendants can be drawn from the immunity of the Speaker or the members in respect of anything, done by them in the House, which occasioned the publication of the libel complained of, without. The order may be illegal, and, therefore no justification to him who acts on it without; and yet the courts of law may be unable to penetrate the walls of the House, and give redress for anything done within; just as the individual who executed an illegal order of the monarch would be responsible, although the constitution would allow of no proceeding against the monarch himself.

And now, having made these limitations clear, I would ask whether, subject to them, there is any reasonable doubt that it has been the practice of the courts to enquire into questions of privilege, a practice, considering all the circumstances, prevailing with remarkable uniformity, and traced from very early periods? It would be impossible for me within any reasonable limits to go through the series of recorded cases; and, after the judgments

1839.

STOCKDALE:
against
HANBARD.

Coleridge J.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Coleridge J.

judgments already pronounced, must be quite unnecessary; although to specify only a few may seem as if they alone were relied on. The case of *Donne v. Walsh*, 12 E. 4 (a), and of *Ryver v. Cosyn* in the same year and same book (b), are important, as shewing that at that early period, when the supersedeas of a cause was to depend on the extent of the parliamentary privilege, the enquiry was left to the judges of the court in which the cause itself was pending. In both instances, the Barons of the Exchequer take to counsel the judges of either bench, and, finding quod non habetur nec unquam habebatur *talis consuetudo* as that relied on for the supersedeas, disallow it, and order the defendant to answer to the declaration.

Ferrers's Case (c) in the reign of Henry VIII. is noticed by Mr. *Hatsell*, p. 53, as being the first instance in which the House of Commons took *upon themselves* to vindicate their privilege of freedom from arrest (d); and, when that case is read at length, one cannot but observe indications of their proceeding, as if in the exercise of an untried power, with uncertain and somewhat inconsistent steps. The House is inflamed by the imprisonment and detention of their member, and the violent resistance to the serjeant; but what is their first step? They all retire to the upper House; the Speaker states their grievance, the Chancellor and the Judges consider the matter, and, "judging the contempt to be very great," refer "the punishment thereof to the order of the Commons' House." Then, the member being relieved, and the offenders against privilege having submitted and been punished, an act of parliament passes, after long

(a) 1 *Hats. Pr.* 41.(b) 1 *Hats. Pr.* 42.(c) 1 *Hats. Pr.* 53.(d) And see *Frynne's Reg.* Part 4, 858.

debate,

debate, touching the member's debt (a); the King comes to the parliament, and descants in large terms upon their privileges, founding himself on the information of his learned counsel; and the whole is concluded by the Lord Chief Justice "very gravely" declaring "his opinion, confirming by divers reasons all that the King had said." *Dyer*, who, in an *Anonymous Case* (b) in *Moore*, p. 67, states the law as to one of the privileges of parliament, refers to this case, saying, "and so it was held by the sages of the law in the case of one *Ferrers* in the time of *Henry VIII.*"

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.
Coleridge J.

Cases and language such as the preceding seem to me to furnish the key to the true meaning of the expressions to be found in *Thorp's Case* (c), and the 4 *Inst.* (d), on which so much reliance has been placed the defendants. When the judges in that case speak of "a high court of parliament," "so high and mighty in his nature, that it may make law, and that that is law, it may make no lawe," they cannot truly be speaking of either or both Houses; and when they say, "that the determination and knowledge of that privilege belongeth to the Lords of the Parliament and not to the justices," it would be inconsistent with the general course of authorities to suppose they meant to represent themselves as really ignorant of the law of parliamentary privilege, and also with their going on immediately to inform the Lords as to the course adopted with regard to parliamentary privilege in the courts below.

(a) To prevent the creditor from ultimately losing his demand.

(b) *Moore*, 57. *Dyer's* observation, and the opinion of the sages of the law, according to him, is against the enforcement of the privilege in this case, which he says was "minus just." And see *Prynne, Reg. Part 4.*, 861. See also *Hata. Pr.* 58.

(c) 1 *Hata. Pr.* 28.

(d) 4 *Inst.* 15.

The

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.
Coleridge J.

The question indeed was one of privilege between the two Houses, and the person of the Duke of York on the one hand, and the Speaker on the other; and the judges, advisers of the peers as to all matters of common law, decline to advise the Lords how to decide that question there, and this, considering the times, and the power of one of the litigants, with no very blameable reserve; at the same time they inform them of their own course of decision in such cases arising in their own courts below.

Benyon v. Evelyn (a) has been so much discussed during the agitation of this question that I shall only refer to it. But I was indeed surprised to find it treated in the argument as bearing very lightly on the question, and the judgment of the Lord Chief Justice therein characterised as a mere idle display of learning, unnecessary to the decision of the cause. That indeed was not a case in which the House took any part, and the privilege was sought to be used against the member; but how these circumstances detract from the effect of that decision as shewing the constant interference of the courts of law in questions of privilege, I do not understand. If indeed it can be shewn that the cases there relied on are unfairly selected, or unfaithfully reported, or if any sound distinction can be shewn between the free discussion of one branch of the privilege of the House and that of another, the judgment there may not press upon the defendants: if these cannot be shewn, and it was not attempted in the argument, it is all but decisive of the question.

The great case of *Ashby v. White (b)*, decided by the

(a) *O. Bridgman's Judgments*, 324.

(b) 2 *Ld. Ray.* 938.

court of last resort, and the modern but well considered cases in Chancery of Mr. *Long Wellesley* (a) and Mr. *Lechmere Charlton* (b), are all that I will further mention; and I will only mention them by name. Indeed, with the opinion which I have upon the state of the authorities on this question, I seem to myself to have dwelt longer than I ought to have done on this part of the case. Limiting the interference of courts of law with the privileges of the House of Commons as I have done in the earlier part of my remarks, it appears to me to be quite unquestionable.

The less important question raised by the plea, but still a cardinal one to the decision of the case, remains to be considered as shortly as I can. Has the House of Commons the privilege of publishing and selling indiscriminately to the public whatever it orders to be printed for the use of the members? Or, conceding the resolution and order just stated to be identical in effect with the resolution of uncertain date stated at the end of the plea (which yet, considering their language, is a wide concession to make), is the power of publishing such of its votes, reports, and proceedings, as it shall deem

1839.

 STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Coleridge J.

(a) 2 Russ. & Mylne, 639.

(b) 2 Mylne & Cr., 316.

In *March* 1815, Lord *Cochrane*, being in the King's Bench prison, under sentence for conspiracy, escaped, and went into the House of Commons, during the session of parliament, but not while the House was assembled. He was there retaken by the Marshal. Lord *Cochrane* was at that time, and before the escape, a member of the House. The Marshal stated the facts in a letter to the Speaker, and the matter was referred to a committee of privileges, who reported that they found nothing in the journals to guide them; but "That, under the particular circumstances given in evidence, it does not appear to your committee that the privileges of parliament have been violated, so as to call for the interposition of the House by any proceedings against the Marshal of the King's Bench." *March* 23d, 1815. 1 *Hats. Prec.* 278. Appendix, No. 5. 4th ed. 1818.

necessary

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.

Coleridge J.

necessary or conducive to the public interests, an essential incident to the constitutional functions of the Commons' House of Parliament?

The burthen of proof is on those who assert it; and, for the purposes of this cause, the proof must go to the whole of the proposition: its truth as to the votes, or even as to some of its proceedings, will not suffice. Now we have been referred to the Report of the Committee on the publication of printed papers, and with some emphasis we have been informed of the names of the individual members. The industry displayed in the former, and the well known learning and ability of the latter, are such, that we may safely say, if the proposition has not been demonstrated, it cannot be.

Si Pergama dextrâ
Defendi possent, etiam hæc defensa fuissent.

One thing is remarkable in this controversy. The privileges of parliament at different periods have engaged largely the attention of political writers, and parliament has never wanted zealous assertors to enumerate them; and no one can doubt of the extreme importance of this branch of them, if it had ever existed. I look to the Report for authorities of this class, and I find it a perfect blank. If any thing could be added to that Report, the argument for the defendants, it may be safely asserted, would have supplied it; that is equally a blank on this head. Nor am I able, and my brother *Patteson*, with far wider research, tells us that he is not able, to supply any authority to this effect. It is difficult to explain this in any manner consistently with its being a recognized privilege. General acquiescence might explain why there was no *case* to be found in support of it; but for the very same reason one should have expected to have found

found it enumerated in some or all of the text writers who have had to deal with the subject of privilege.

But, if not to be found in such works, nor evidenced by any resolution of the House prior to that of 1837, does it stand more securely on the testimony of the journals and proceedings of the House? It cannot be denied that the journals present evidence of the exercise of the right of publication; the question is, whether, all things considered, and specially the nature of the right on the one hand, and the imperfect state of the early journals on the other, it is sufficient in reason to establish its existence. For about the first century of the journals, from 1547 to 1641, nothing appears on the subject; but the time and occasion of the commencement of the precedents relied on, and the early precedents themselves, are far more unfavourable to the right than the previous want of any. The time is 1641; the occasion the unhappy difference between the Sovereign and the House: the precedents themselves direct acts moving in and towards the Great Rebellion. Mr. *Hatsell*, closing his first part (a), says, "If I shall ever have leisure or inclination to continue this work, I shall think myself obliged to pass over every thing that occurred" "after this unhappy day" (the entrance of the King into the House), "and shall collect only such precedents as are to be met with" in the two parliaments of 1640, till the "4th of *January*, 1641, and then proceed directly to the *Restoration*." And I cannot but think that this part of the defendants' case would have stood better if the same discretion had guided the industry of those who collected their precedents, and if no reliance had been placed on these violent and irregular proceedings.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.
Coleridge J.

(a) 1 *Hats. Pr.* 218. 223. ed. 1818.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.
Coleridge J.

Passing from this inauspicious opening to the year 1660, and thence to the year 1835, I do not doubt that in a great many instances the House of Commons is shewn to have printed and published votes, reports, and proceedings; the votes indeed with considerable regularity; but, as to the first of these, the right to publish is undisputed, and stands on a ground which leaves this question untouched. The term "proceedings" is so vague that I am unwilling to pronounce any opinion upon the right as to them generally; but no doubt there are many things, fairly reducible under that term, which the House would have the right to publish: and, as to their reports, a large proportion of them would contain nothing criminary of individuals, so as to raise no question upon the right. Now, when the necessary deductions are made in respect of all these considerations, and when, besides, we allow for the reluctance which individuals would have to litigation with so formidable an adversary as the House, even where the criminating matter in a report was false, and that it would be doubled where the matter was true, which in many instances it must in reason be taken to have been, the residuum of the evidence which may be fairly considered to support the right claimed is so small as entirely to fail in making it out. We have been obliged in this case to refer to what looks like evidence in fact, in order to ascertain the law: and evidence naturally bears with a different weight on different minds. I speak of my own impression; and, considering it merely as a question of evidence, I frankly avow that what has here been collected gives the claim to my mind the character much more of usurpation than lawful privilege.

But it may be said that necessity, or at least a strong expediency,

expediency, prove the existence of the privilege, for they are the foundation of all privilege.

These may be essential to privilege; but I must take leave to deny that alone they can constitute it. The House of Commons is sometimes called the grand inquest of the nation; and to the discharge of its duty as such, who can doubt that the power to examine witnesses upon oath would be most conducive? To the perfect discharge of that duty who can doubt that in early times it was thought essential? Yet there is nothing clearer than that the House has not that power, and cannot by its own resolutions acquire it. The author of *Junius's Letters*, I think, lays down a safer rule: "To establish a claim of privilege in either House, and to distinguish original right from usurpation, it must appear that it is indispensably necessary for the performance of the duty they are employed in, and *also that it has been uniformly allowed.*" *Letter* xliv. (a).

Were I therefore to concede the necessity, or the strong expedience, one half only of the defendants' case would be made out; the objector would still appeal to the defective evidence of allowance, and the rule would hold "*Bonum ex causâ integrâ, malum ex aliquâ parte.*" But I do not feel that I can make that concession. I will not put this upon the ground of inconsistency in the urging this argument for a body whose most undoubted and exercised privilege it is to exclude the public at pleasure from their debates; but, recollecting the great inconvenience of all injustice, the great advantage of maintaining the principle that even public benefits are not to be purchased by a violation of the sacred rights of individuals, recollecting how nearly all, if not all, the benefit

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANBARD.
Coleridge J.

(a) Vol. ii. p. 213. 2d ed. (*Woodfall*), 1814.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.
Coleridge J.

of publicity may be secured, even when it is confined to matter not criminary, I assert with the greatest confidence that the balance even of public expediency is in favour of a right of publication restricted by the limits of the common law. What advantage derived from publicity can be equal to the maintenance of the principle, that even to the representatives of the people, the most powerful body in the nation, the calumny of individuals is forbidden? What benefit can countervail the evil of a general understanding that any man's character is at the mercy of that body, and that *by the law*, not merely by the force of overbearing power, but by the rule of English law, for the sake of public expediency, he may be slandered without redress? I desire to avoid language that may have the semblance of offence: but I soberly ask the warmest advocate for this extended privilege, whether any benefit in a land, all the institutions of which seek the genial sunshine of public opinion and must languish without it, can make up for the injury resulting from this, that it should be capable of being said with truth, the House of Commons has become a trader in books, and claims, as ~~privilege, a legal monopoly~~ in slander?

If then I try this claim by the authority of text writers, by the evidence of precedents, by the test of expedience, or necessity, it seems to me in each and all of these to be signally wanting. I am therefore of opinion that the plaintiff is entitled to our judgment. I could wish that I had had leisure to express my reasons more concisely, and more clearly. I have examined the question, however, with an anxiety proportionate to its importance, and with a deep sense of the responsibility attaching to the decision; but I cannot say that I entertain the least doubt of its correctness.

We

We have been warned of the danger of a pursuit after popularity; advice no doubt tendered in a respectful and friendly spirit; advice most useful where needed. I trust that nothing we have said or done can fairly lay us open to the imputation of needing it. For myself I am afraid to quote a passage from the eloquent appeal of a great predecessor of my Lord (a), lest any one should suppose me weak enough to be thinking of a comparison with Lord *Mansfield*; but I *feel* the distinction between the popular favour that follows an honest course, and that which is followed after.

To speak of a contempt of the House, if “we assume to decide this question inconsistently with its determination,” argues what I should call, if the language had not been used by those whom I am bound to revere, a strange obliquity of understanding. The cause is before us; we are sworn to decide it according to our notions of the law; we do not bring it here; and, being here, a necessity is laid upon us to deliver judgment; that judgment we can receive at the dictation of no power: we may decide the cause erroneously; but we *cannot* be guilty of any contempt in deciding it according to our consciences.

The privileges of the House are my own privileges, the privileges of every citizen in the land. I tender them as dearly as any member possibly can: and, so far from considering the judgment we pronounce as invading them, I think that by setting them on the foundation of reason, and limiting them by the fences of the law, we do all that in us lies to secure them from invasion, and root them in the affections of the people.

Judgment for the plaintiff.

(a) Lord *Mansfield* in *Rex v. Wilkes*, 4 Burr. 2562.

1839.

STOCKDALE
against
HANSARD.
Coleridge J.

C A S E S

1838.

ARGUED AND DETERMINED

IN THE

Court of QUEEN's BENCH,

AND

UPON WRITS OF ERROR FROM THAT COURT TO THE

EXCHEQUER CHAMBER,

IN

Michaelmas Vacation,

In the Second Year of the Reign of VICTORIA.

The Judges who sat in Banc in this vacation were

Lord DENMAN C. J.

WILLIAMS J.

PATTESON J.

COLERIDGE J.

THE following cases, until the date of *December 1st* inclusive, were determined by the Court of Queen's Bench sitting in Banc in pursuance of a rule of Court made last *Michaelmas* term, under stat. 1 & 2 *Vict. c. 32. (a)*, and read in Court, *November 12th*, 1838.

(a) "An Act to enable Her Majesty's Courts at *Westminster* to hold Sittings in Banc in Time of Vacation."

Sect. 1 enacts "That from and after the passing of this act it shall be lawful for the Courts of Queen's Bench, Common Pleas, and Exchequer, at their discretion, to hold sittings in Banc in time of vacation, at such times as are now by law appointed for holding sittings at Nisi

Prius

Pris in *London* and *Middlesex*, for the purpose of disposing of business then pending and undecided in such Courts respectively.

1838.

Sect. 2 enacts "That such sittings in vacation may be holden by virtue of a rule or order of the said Courts respectively to be made in or out of term, whereof a week's notice shall be published in the *London Gazette*, and affixed in some conspicuous place on the outside of such Courts respectively making such order, and also in the chambers of the Judges or Barons of the same Courts respectively, and in the office of the Masters of the same Court, in the following form :

' Court of [Queen's Bench, Court of Common Pleas, or Court of Exchequer (*as the case may be*).]

' This Court will on the day of hold sittings, and will proceed in disposing of the business now pending in the special paper on the day of the same month, and the following days, and on the day of the same month will proceed in disposing of the business now pending in the paper of new trials.'

Or any other business, as such Courts in their discretion shall see fit."

Sect. 3 enacts " That all judgments to be pronounced and all rules and orders to be made by virtue of this act shall have the same effect, to all intents and purposes, as if they had been pronounced or made in term time."

FERGUSON against MAHON.

Tuesday,
November 27th.

THIS cause was tried before Lord Denman C. J., at the *London* sittings after last *Trinity* term, when a verdict was found for the plaintiff, leave being reserved to move to enter a nonsuit. *Humfrey*, in the last Declaration in debt for two years' rent, at 90*l* per annum, due 1st November 1836; the particulars of demand

giving credit for the first of the two years' rent, less 16*l* 16*s* 6*d*. Plea, as to 183*l*, parcel of the said rent, that plaintiff held as tenant to C.; that, before and at the time when the said 183*l* became due, 183*l* was in arrear from plaintiff to C., who claimed it of defendant, and defendant paid it to C. to avoid a distress. Replication, admitting the payment to C., but averring that the sums paid by defendant were deducted from money due at the time of payment from defendant to plaintiff; and that, at the commencement of the action, 183*l* was due from defendant to plaintiff, beyond the sum so paid. Rejoinder, that the sums were not so deducted, and traversing that 183*l* was due beyond the sums paid.

Held (before the operation of rule of *Trin. 1 Vict.*, as to not pleading payments allowed in particulars of demand) that, assuming the declaration to be only for the balance of 106*l* 16*s* 6*d*. (but *semble* *contra*), and the defendant as pleading to that only (though the Court considered that the plea was really pleaded to more), yet the replication denied that the payments were applied to that balance, and the rejoinder took issue thereon; and therefore plaintiff might prove that the payments applied to debts independent of the balance, and left the balance still due.

1838.

FERGUSON
against
MAHON.

term (*November 5th*), moved (*a*) according to the leave reserved. The facts and arguments will be sufficiently collected from the judgment.

Cur. adv. vult.

Lord DENMAN C. J. now delivered the judgment of the Court.

This was an action of debt. The second count, on the pleadings to which this question arises, was on an indenture of lease to hold from the 1st *November* 1829, for seven years, at 90*l.* per annum; and the count claimed two years' rent due 1st *November* 1836.

The defendant pleaded, as to 135*l.*, *parcel of the said rent*, that the plaintiff held the premises as tenant to one *Carter*, at 90*l.* per annum; that, *before and at the time when the 135*l.* in the plea mentioned became due, 135*l.* was in arrear from the plaintiff to Carter*, who claimed the same of the defendant; and that the defendant, to avoid a distress upon his goods, paid to *Carter* several sums of money, amounting to 135*l.*

The plaintiff replied, admitting the payment to *Carter*, but stating that the several sums of money were deducted by defendant, at the several times when they were paid, out of rent due *at those times* from the defendant to the plaintiff; and that, at the commencement of this suit, 135*l.* was due from the defendant to the plaintiff for rent, over and above the several sums so paid and deducted by the defendant.

The defendant rejoined that the several sums were not deducted by the defendant in the manner alleged; *without this*, that 135*l.* is due and owing over and above the said payments. The other pleadings were immaterial to this question.

(*a*) Before Lord Denman C. J., Patteson, Williams, and Coleridge Js.

At

At the trial, it appeared that 106*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.* was due to the plaintiff, after allowing all payments; and a verdict was taken for that amount.

Mr. *Humfrey* moved to enter a nonsuit, upon the ground that the particulars of demand in this case give credit for the first of the two years' rent claimed in the declaration, less 16*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.*; that those particulars must be taken as part of the declaration, and the plea must be taken as pleaded to the balance, viz. 106*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.*; and that, as the replication admits the payment of 135*l.* stated in the plea, which is a larger sum than that balance, the plaintiff, by his own shewing, is out of Court; and he cited *Booth v. Howard* (a), *Nicholl v. Williams* (b), *Kenyon v. Wakes* (c), in support of these positions, and, principally, to shew that the particulars of the plaintiff's demand must be taken as part of the declaration, not only for purposes of evidence, but for purposes of pleading.

We do not think that those cases establish any such point: nor, as at present advised, are we prepared to agree with them if they did. But the point is not material to the decision of this case. For, if it be conceded, for the sake of the argument, that the declaration, as explained by the particulars, claims a balance of 106*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.*, and that the defendant has attempted to plead to that balance only (which however it is plain he does not, since he pleads expressly as to 135*l.*, *parcel of the rent mentioned in the declaration*, thereby professing that more than 106*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.* is claimed by the declaration, and actually pleading to more), yet the replication, in terms, states that the payments attempted by the plea to be applied to that balance of 106*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.*

1838.

 FERGUSON
against
MAHON.

(a) 5 Dowl. P. C. 438.

(b) 2 M. & W. 758.

(c) 2 M. & W. 764.

1838.

FERGUSON
against
MAHON.

were applied to another and different demand, viz. to prior rent, and the rejoinder in substance takes issue on that very question of application, which has been found, and rightly found, for the plaintiff.

In any view of the case, therefore, this verdict is right, and no rule for a nonsuit is to be granted.

Rule refused (a).

(a) See Rule Trin. 1 Vict., 8 A. & E. 280. Also *Freeman v. Crafts*, 4 M. & W. 4.

Tuesday,
November 27th.

ALSTON and Another *against* MILLS.

Assumpsit,
stating that defendant owed
plaintiff 883*l.*
for goods sold
and delivered ;

but that, although he has paid 664*l.*, the residue is unpaid. The particular of demand claimed a balance of 219*l.*

Plea, payment to the amount of all the monies mentioned in the declaration. Replication, new-assigning, as to so much of the plea as relates to 175*l.*, parcel of the monies in the declaration mentioned, that the action is brought, not for a part of the causes of action mentioned in the plea, to the amount of 175*l.*, in respect of which defendants paid plaintiffs a part of the sums in that plea mentioned, viz. 175*l.*, but for breach of a promise to pay plaintiffs another and a different sum, viz. 175*l.*, part of the monies in the first count mentioned, and in which defendant was indebted to plaintiff as there mentioned, for goods sold and delivered between June 1st, 1836, and December 20th, 1837 ; which promise was made as in the declaration mentioned, and is different from the promise to pay the 175*l.* so paid to plaintiffs, and the causes of action in respect thereof. And, as to the residue of the causes of action in the declaration mentioned, that defendant did not pay the residue of the sums &c.

Rejoinder. 1. Payment of all the monies claimed by the new assignment. Traverse, and issue thereon. 2. That the promise mentioned in the declaration, as to 175*l.*, is not a different cause of action from the promise to pay 175*l.* so paid to plaintiffs, and the causes of action in respect thereof. Issue thereon.

On the trial, plaintiffs proved, among other demands (not available in this action), goods supplied to the amount of 370*l.*, and payments to the amount of 312*l.*, leaving a balance not in point of fact covered by the payment of 175*l.* admitted in the replication. Verdict for plaintiff, 58*l.*

Motion for a nonsuit, on the ground that the declaration claimed only a balance of 219*l.* ; that the first plea related to that only ; that the replication admitted a payment of 175*l.* ; that the plaintiff's claim, therefore, on the record, was only for the difference between that sum and 219*l.* ; and that defendants had proved payment of 312*l.*

Held, that plaintiff was entitled to recover. For,

1. That the plea of payment was not confined to the balance.

2. That the admission, in the new assignment, of 175*l.* having been paid, was not an admission of payment in respect of the balance of 219*l.*, but was, by the language of the new assignment, a virtual allegation that the 175*l.* was part of the 664*l.*, admitted in the declaration to have been paid.

and

and in the same amount for money found due on an account then stated &c., and, being so indebted, promised &c. And, although defendant in part performance of his promise has paid plaintiffs divers sums &c., amounting together to 664*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*, parcel of the said several sums of money, yet defendant has not further performed &c.; but on the contrary has not paid the residue &c.

Pleas. 1. Non assumpsit. 2. That, before the commencement of this suit, viz. on &c., and on divers other days &c., defendant paid plaintiffs divers sums &c., amounting to a large sum, viz. to the amount of all the monies in the declaration mentioned, in full satisfaction of all the causes and rights of action in the declaration mentioned, which payments the plaintiffs accepted &c. Verification. 3. A set-off.

Replication. 1. Joining issue on the 1st plea. 2. As to so much of the 2d plea as relates to a certain part of the causes and rights of action in the declaration mentioned, viz. to 175*l.* 17*s.*, parcel of the monies in the 1st count mentioned, that plaintiffs sued &c., and declared &c., not in respect of a certain part of the causes and rights of action in the said second plea mentioned, to wit causes and rights of action to a large amount, viz. 175*l.* 17*s.*, and in respect of which last mentioned causes and rights of action the said defendant paid to the plaintiffs a part of the sums of money in the said second plea mentioned, to wit sums of money amounting in the whole to a large sum of money, viz. 175*l.* 17*s.*, but for the nonperformance of a promise to pay the plaintiffs another and different sum, viz. 175*l.* 17*s.*, parcel of the monies in the first count of the declaration mentioned, and in which sum of 175*l.* 17*s.* the defendant was indebted to the plaintiffs as in that count mentioned,

1838.

 ALSTON
 against
 MILLS.

tioned, for the price and value of goods sold and delivered by the said plaintiffs to the defendant, and at his request, between the 1st *June* 1836 and the said 20th *December* 1837; which promise was made by the defendant to the plaintiffs in manner and form as the said plaintiffs have above thereof in the said declaration complained against the said defendant; which promise in the said declaration mentioned, as to the said 175*l.* 17*s.*, parcel &c., is another and different promise and cause and right of action to the promise to pay the said 175*l.* 17*s.* so paid to the plaintiffs, and the causes and rights of action in respect thereof. Verification. 3. As to so much of the second plea as relates to the residue of the causes and rights of action in the declaration mentioned, other than the said causes &c. as to the said 175*l.* 17*s.*, parcel of the monies in the first count mentioned, that defendant did not pay plaintiffs the residue of the said sums in the second plea mentioned &c. (traversing the payment in satisfaction, and acceptance), in manner and form &c. Conclusion to the country. 4. Traverse of the set-off. Conclusion to the country.

Pleas to the new assignment. 1. That, on 1st *December* 1832, and on divers other days &c., defendant paid plaintiffs divers sums &c., in the whole &c., to wit the amount of all the monies claimed by the said new assignment, in full satisfaction of the cause and right of action above newly assigned, and plaintiffs then accepted &c. Verification. 2. As to the same promise and cause of action, that plaintiffs, before and at the time of the commencement of this suit were and still are indebted &c. (set-off to the damages claimed under the new assignment). 3. As to the same promise and cause of action, that the promise mentioned in the declaration as

to

to 175*l.* 17*s.*, parcel &c., is not another and different promise and cause of action from the promise to pay 175*l.* 17*s.* so paid to the said plaintiffs, and the causes and rights of action in respect thereof, in manner and form &c. Conclusion to the country. 4. and 5. Joining issue on the other parts of the replication.

Replication to the pleas to the new assignment. 1. Traversing the payment and acceptance in satisfaction of the cause of action newly assigned; conclusion to the country. Issue thereon. 2. Traverse of the set-off. Conclusion to the country. Issue thereon. 3. Joining issue as to the identity of the causes of action in respect of 175*l.* 17*s.*

The plaintiffs delivered a particular of demand, stating in one column the items of charge (from *June* 1836 to *September* 1837), and in another the payments admitted (from *August* 1836 to *September* 1837), and claiming a balance of 219*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* And, on new assigning, they again delivered a particular containing the same items on both sides, and demanding the same balance, headed, "The plaintiffs under the new assignment in this action seek to recover the sum of 175*l.* 17*s.*, being part of the under-mentioned balance of 219*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* due to the plaintiffs from the defendant upon the following account."

On the trial before *Patteson J.*, at the last *Maidstone* assizes, it appeared that the defendant (a fishmonger) had been in the habit of receiving oysters from the plaintiffs to sell, from 1833 till the latter part of 1837, but that he received them as purchaser during the last-mentioned year only, having before that time sold as agent for the plaintiffs. That the price of the oysters furnished to defendant in 1837 was 370*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.*; the amount paid by him in the course of that year, 312*l.* 15*s.*

The

1838.

ALSTON
against
MILLS.

1838.

 ALSTON
 against
 MILLS.

The sum of 883*l.* 16*s.*, claimed in the declaration, was partly made up of items stated to have accrued in previous years. The learned Judge was of opinion that, if the prices charged were fair, the plaintiffs were entitled to recover 58*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.*, the difference between 370*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.* and 312*l.* 15*s.*; and a verdict was taken for that sum, leave being reserved to move for a nonsuit, on the grounds hereafter stated.

Ogle, in last *Michaelmas* term (a), moved according to the leave reserved. The grounds of motion will sufficiently appear by the judgment..

Cur. adv. vult.

LORD DENMAN C. J. now delivered the judgment of the Court.

The pleadings in this case are somewhat confused, and have given rise to a question, whether the plaintiff is not, on the true construction of them, out of Court.

The declaration is for goods sold and delivered to the amount of 883*l.* 16*s.*, and states that, although 664*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* has been paid, the remainder has not. It claims, therefore, 219*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* The second plea pleads generally payment of *all sums of money mentioned in the declaration*. The replication, as to 175*l.* 17*s.*, part of the monies mentioned in the first count, states, by way of new assignment, that the plaintiff sued out his writ, not for the causes of action in respect of which that sum of 175*l.* 17*s.* was paid, but for a like sum on other and different promises, viz. for goods sold and delivered between the 1st of *June* 1836 and the 20th of *December*

(a) November 5th. Before Lord Denman C. J., Patterson, Williams, and Coleridge Js.

1837; and, as to the rest of the monies alleged to be paid, denies the payment. To the new assignment the defendant pleads: 1st. A general plea of payment: 2dly, That the causes of action as to the 175*l.* 17*s.* are not other and different. Upon those pleas issue is joined. At the trial it was proved distinctly that the causes were other and different, and that on the whole accounts a balance of 58*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* was due, for which the verdict was taken. Mr. *Ogle* moved for a nonsuit, contending, as he did at the trial, that as the declaration claims a balance of 219*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* only, the first plea of payment must be taken as pleaded to that balance only; that the replication, by way of new assignment, having admitted the payment of 175*l.* 17*s.* as alleged in the plea, it was sufficient for the defendant to prove payments making up the difference between 219*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* and 175*l.* 17*s.* (a); and that, he having done so, the plaintiff was out of Court. We think that the view so taken of the pleadings is wrong in two respects.

First. The plea of payment is not confined to the balance claimed in the declaration. It is pleaded in terms that the defendant has paid all the sums of *money mentioned in the declaration*; and there is nothing to prevent our giving the words their natural meaning, which is, that the defendant has paid, not only the sums *admitted* by the declaration, but also all other sums mentioned in it.

Secondly. The replication does not admit the payment of 175*l.* 17*s.*, as stated in the plea, that is to say, as made in respect of the balance claimed, although it does

(a) *Ogle* contended, in moving, that this must be so unless the plaintiffs could prove a second unpaid balance, and he cited *Hall v. Middleton*, 4 A. & E. 107.

1838.

ALSTON
against
MILLS.

admit

1838.

ALSTON
against
MILLS.

admit that it was made in respect of causes of action *mentioned in the declaration*; for it expressly states that the plaintiff brought his action, *not* for the causes of action in respect of which that admitted sum of 175*l.* 17*s.* *was paid*, but for other and different causes accruing within a specified period of time, which, in effect, amounts to this, that the sum of 175*l.* 17*s.* is part of the money admitted in the declaration, and the action is brought for the balance in respect of other and different causes of action. The defendant has denied that the causes of action were other and different; and that has been found against him. Whether the plaintiffs might or might not have treated the first plea of payment as applicable to the balance only, and replied by denying *any* payment beyond that admitted in the declaration, is not now the question. It is plain that the words of the plea are not necessarily so limited; and the plaintiff was not bound to consider them as so limited. Neither is it now necessary to inquire why the particular sum of 175*l.* 17*s.* was mentioned in the replication; the reason for which does not appear. The substance of the issue is, whether the defendant has paid *all* that is due; and, that issue having been tried, no ground is shewn to us sufficient to disturb the verdict.

No rule is to be granted. It is highly satisfactory to us to find a similar view taken of this point by the Court of Exchequer in *Freeman v. Crafts* (a).

Rule refused.

(a) 4 M. & W. 4.

1838.

The following cases, as far as *Regina v. The Inhabitants of Somerby* inclusive, (with the exception of *Wheeler v. Haynes*, p. 286. note (a)), are reported by *Edward Smirke*, of the *Middle Temple*, Esquire, Barrister at Law.

ALLASON and Others *against* STARK.

Tuesday,
November 27th.

USE and occupation. The action was brought in respect of land in the parish of *Kensington, Middlesex*. On the trial before Lord *Denman* C. J., a verdict was found for the plaintiffs, subject to the opinion of this Court on the following case.

The plaintiffs were trustees of the *Cambden* charity estates mentioned in stat. 17 G. 3. c. 64., "for the better relief and employment of the poor of the parish of *St. Mary Abbots, Kensington*," &c. The defendant was one of the trustees for executing the above act, and was sued as such under the provisions of 7 G. 4. c. cxiii. (local and personal, public) s. 37. (for amending and enlarging stat. 17 G. 3. c. 64.).

Elizabeth, Viscountess *Cambden*, by her will made in 1643, bequeathed to certain trustees therein named, and to the churchwardens of the above parish, a sum of money to be laid out in lands of inheritance of the yearly value of 10*l.* upon trust, as to one moiety thereof,

parish; Held, that the legal estate was not transferred to the parish officers under stat. 59 G. 3. c. 12. s. 17., although, by a local act, a portion of the rents was applied to the expense of erecting the parish workhouse, and paying off monies borrowed for that purpose.

A dispute having arisen between trustees for the poor under a local act, and the trustees of certain charity lands, respecting the liability of the former to pay rent to the latter for a workhouse built on the charity land, an amicable suit was instituted in the *Rolls Court*, and an order obtained for payment of a certain rent in respect of the said land: The trustees for the poor acquiesced in the order, and paid rent accordingly for twelve years: Held, that they could not afterwards dispute their liability in an action for use and occupation.

from

1838.

ALLASON
against
STARK.

from time to time, yearly, for ever, “for and towards the better relief of the most poor and needy people that be of good life and conversation, that should be inhabiting within the said parish; the other moiety yearly for ever to put forth one poor boy or more, being of the said parish, to be apprentice or apprentices, and the 5*l*. which shall be due to the poor of the said parish to be paid to them every half year &c., at and in the church or porch thereof.” In pursuance of this bequest, a piece of land called *Butt's Field* was purchased and conveyed to the trustees named in the will, and at the passing of the act 17 G. 3. c. 64. formed part of the charity estates therein named.

The act 17 G. 3. c. 64. recited (sect.1) that the above land called *Butt's Field*, together with other land purchased with a legacy left by Viscountess *Cambden* “to be yearly employed for the good and benefit of the poor of the town of *Kensington* for ever, in such manner as certain trustees therein named, since deceased, and the churchwardens of the parish of *Kensington* for the time being, should think fit to establish”, and also other land and buildings, were vested in certain trustees, their heirs and assigns, upon the trusts declared in the wills of Lord and Lady *Cambden*, with power to appoint new trustees when necessary; that it was desirable that the trustees should be able to grant building and other beneficial leases of the charity land, and that the “rents, profits, and produce of such part of the said charity estates as belong to the poor of the said parish be from time to time applied in aid of the poor rates, for paying the interest of monies to be borrowed, or annuities to be granted for raising monies to be invested and applied in the purchase of ground, and erecting, building, and furnishing a proper workhouse,” &c., for the poor of the said

said parish, &c.; and that it would be beneficial to the parish and conducive to the improvement of the charity estates, if the trustees thereafter named (that is, the trustees for putting the act in execution) were empowered to contract for and build a workhouse, and for that purpose to raise monies by way of annuity, or otherwise, upon the credit of the rates, and if the trustees of the charity estates were enabled to grant or demise the same for the purposes aforesaid, and "to appropriate the parts or shares of rents and profits thereof belonging to the poor of the said parish in aid of such rates during the lives of the respective annuitants, or until the monies to be borrowed for the purposes aforesaid shall be fully paid and satisfied." The act then (sect. 1) authorised the charity trustees to grant long leases of *Butt's Field* and the other charity lands, by public auction, to persons willing to build upon them, with all common covenants for payment of rent, repairs &c. The act further directed (a) that 54*l.* per

1838.

 ALLASON
 against
 STARK.

(a) Sect. 3. "Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that, from and after the 29th day of *September*, 1777, the sum of 54*l.* per annum, being the whole amount of the present yearly rents and profits of the charity estates above mentioned (of which the said field called *Butt's Field* is little more than one half) shall from time to time thereafter be paid and applied to and for the putting out one or more poor boy or boys of the said parish of *Kensington* apprentice or apprentices, according to the directions of the said will of the said *Elizabeth* Viscountess Dowager *Camden* deceased; and that all other the rents, profits, fines, and produce to be thereafter made of all or any part of the above-mentioned charity estates, shall, from time to time, as the same shall or may be received by the said trustees or their successors, or their attornies or agents, be by them and every of them paid over unto the trustees hereinafter nominated and appointed for putting this act into execution, and their successors, or to their treasurer or treasurers for the time being, or whom else they shall from time to time think fit to nominate or appoint for that purpose; to be applied and disposed of, and the same is hereby directed to be applied and disposed of for and towards the purchasing of ground, and building, hiring, and furnishing of a workhouse and other accommodations

1838.

ALLASON
against
STARK.

per annum should be thereafter applied to apprenticing poor boys, according to Lady *Cambden's* will, and that all the other rents of the charity estates should be from time to time paid over by the charity trustees to certain trustees named for executing the act, to be by them applied to purchasing ground, building, hiring, and furnishing a workhouse, and paying monies borrowed and annuities granted under the act, in aid of the poor rates, until all the monies so borrowed should be repaid, and all the annuitants should be dead; after which the trustees of the charity estates were to apply all the rents for the purposes set forth in the wills of Lord and Lady *Cambden*. Power was also given (sect. 19) to the trustees for executing the act, to agree for the purchase or hire of such land or buildings as they should deem convenient for the reception, employment, &c., of the poor of the parish; and they were authorised and required (sect. 21 (a)) to erect one or more house or houses for
the

accommodations for the reception and employment of the poor of the said parish, or for payment of the monies to be borrowed and annuities to be granted by virtue of the powers and authorities hereinafter granted to them, in aid of the rate or rates to be hereafter made for the relief of the poor of the said parish, until such time as the whole of the monies, so to be borrowed for the purposes aforesaid, with interest, shall be repaid, and all the said annuitants to whom such annuities shall or may be granted shall happen to die; and from and after the monies so to be borrowed upon the credit of such rates shall be repaid with interest, and if all the said annuitants shall happen to die, then the said trustees of the said charity estates for the time being do and shall, and they are hereby authorised and required to pay and apply all the said rents, issues, and profits thereof, to and for the uses and purposes mentioned and set forth in the said wills of the said *Baptist* Lord Viscount *Cambden* and Lady *Elizabeth* Viscountess *Cambden*, and in the said indentures of lease and release hereinbefore mentioned."

(a) Sect. 21. "And be it further enacted, that the said trustees" (i. e. the trustees appointed by the act), "or any twenty-five or more of them, shall and may, and they are hereby authorised and required to erect, or cause
to

the poor, "upon either part of the said charity estates belonging to the poor of the said parish, or upon any ground to be either purchased or hired for that purpose," and to pay the expenses of building "by and out of the monies to arise by virtue of that act."

The trustees of the charity estates, after the passing of stat. 17 G. 3. c. 64., from time to time let the estates under the powers of the act, and they still continued to exercise such powers; and the trustees for executing the act shortly after the passing of the act built a workhouse on a part of *Butt's Field*.

In *February* 1821, disputes arose between the two sets of trustees concerning the liability to pay rent for the workhouse, and the amount of rent, if any, to be paid; and thereupon an amicable suit was commenced by petition in the Rolls Court, in which the charity trustees insisted that the trustees under stat. 17 G. 3.

1838.

ALLASON
against
STARK.

to be erected, one or more house or houses, and such other buildings as they shall think necessary, upon either part of the said charity estates belonging to the poor of the said parish, or upon any ground to be either purchased or hired for that purpose, for the residence and employment of the poor of the said parish; and from time to time to furnish and provide the same with bedding, and all other necessary furniture and materials, for the proper and comfortable support, maintenance, and employment of the poor of the said parish, and to contract and agree with artificers workmen, and other persons, for the building, furnishing, and providing for the same; and by and out of the monies to arise by virtue of this act to pay and satisfy all monies which shall be justly due and owing to such artificers, workmen, or others employed in or about the building or furnishing the said house or houses, or any matter or thing relating thereto; copies or extracts of all which contracts or agreements made by or with such artificers or workmen and others, and all receipts, payments, debts, and credits, and all other matters and proceedings concerning the same, shall be entered in a book or books to be kept for those purposes; which book or books shall from time to time, and at all convenient times, be open to the inspection and perusal of all persons paying any rate or assessment to be made by virtue of this act."

1838.

 ALLASON
 against
 STARK.

c. 64. should pay them a fair rent for the use and occupation of the land on which the workhouse was erected. On 14th *February* 1821, it was declared by an order of that Court that the trustees of the charity were seised in fee of the said land and premises; and it was ordered to be referred to a Master to state what rent the trustees for executing the act should pay to the charity trustees for the land. The Master reported, on 14th *January* 1822, that 40*l.* per annum was a fit and proper rent to be so paid for the land, from 7th *February* 1821; and an order was made accordingly. In this suit the same solicitor acted for both parties.

From that time until *February* 1833 inclusive, the trustees under the act regularly paid the rent of 40*l.* to the charity trustees; and the defendant, who became a trustee for executing the act in 1828, and had continued so ever since, was present, as such, at a meeting of trustees in 1829, at which they passed a resolution to pay the said rent. The defendant, on that occasion, neither assented to nor dissented from such resolution, although he had on several occasions expressed his opinion that such rent ought not to be paid.

If the Court should be of opinion that the trustees of the charity were entitled to recover payment of the rent in this action from the trustees for executing the act, the verdict was to stand; otherwise a nonsuit to be entered.

The questions for the opinion of the Court were, firstly, whether the legal estate in the land, at the time of action brought, was in the charity trustees, or was vested in the churchwardens and overseers by stat. 59 G. 3. c. 12. s. 17.; secondly, whether the defendant

was

was not estopped, under the circumstances of the case stated, to deny the plaintiffs' title to the rent in arrear (a).

1838.

ALLASON
against
STARK.

Sir *W. W. Pollett* for the plaintiffs. 1. It is contended by the defendant that, supposing rent to be payable in respect of the workhouse built on the charity land, the plaintiffs are not the proper persons to sue, because, by the operation of stat. 59 G. 3. c. 12. s. 17., the legal estate is now vested in the churchwardens and overseers of the poor; and *Doe dem. Jackson v. Hiley* (b) is relied on. But that act does not extend to a case like the present, in which there is a subsisting tenancy under the trustees for the charity. The lands here are not lands "belonging to the parish." The trustees need not apply the profits in the ordinary course of parish relief, but may and ought to exercise a discretion as to the objects of charity. These objects are specifically pointed out in the will of Lady *Cambden*; half the profits are to be applied to the relief of poor persons of good life and conversation, and half to the apprenticing of boys. The act 17 G. 3. c. 64. makes a temporary change in the application of the charity; but a certain sum is still to be applied to apprenticing boys, and the residue is to be paid to the trustees for executing that act, to be by them applied to the purchase or hire of a workhouse, and to the payment of monies

(a) There was a further question, whether the trustees for executing the act of 17 G. 3. c. 64. were not empowered by that act (especially by sect. 21) to erect the workhouse on part of the charity lands without paying any rent. On this last question the Court held that the trustees were not empowered to do so without payment of rent; but, as this point is of no general interest, the argument and judgment thereupon are omitted.

(b) 10 B. & C. 885.

1838.

ALLASON
against
STARK.

borrowed on annuity or otherwise: when this special purpose has been fulfilled, and the monies paid, the profits then revert to the charity trustees, to be disposed of in conformity with the directions of the will. In *Rex v. Halesworth* (a) the rents, under a similar charitable devise, were held not to be a "public parochial fund" within stat. 56 G. 3. c. 139. s. 11.; and the case was there expressly distinguished from that of a devise for the relief of the poor generally. 2. Independently of the construction of the act, the parties represented by the defendant, having concurred in submitting their liability to the decision of the Master of the Rolls, and having acquiesced in that decision for twelve years, are now precluded from denying either the amount of rent or the liability to pay it.

Sir J. Campbell, Attorney-General, contra. The charity estates are lands "belonging" to the parish within stat. 59 G. 3. c. 12. s. 17. They are referred to in the preamble of stat. 17 G. 3. c. 64., and in sect. 21, as "belonging to the poor." Stat. 59 G. 3. c. 12. was passed to obviate the difficulty of making a title to lands the heirs or feoffees could not be found; it therefore where transfers the legal estate of all parish lands to the parish officers. [Lord Denman C. J. The statute was passed in remedy of cases where the officers had dealt with property devised for the benefit of the poor without strict title. Can it apply where there are trustees appointed and known? *Patteson* J. If it was intended, in all cases, to transfer the legal estate to the parish officers, why not at once enact, in express terms, that it should be so

(a) 3 B. & Ad. 717.

transferred?

transferred? The words of the act are, that the churchwardens, &c., shall be empowered "to accept, take and hold."] The legal estate must, in every case, be somewhere, either in an heir or some surviving devisee or trustee; therefore the act must, at all events, have the effect in every case of transferring it from some one to the parish officers. [Coleridge J. Suppose the testator directed some special application of the profits to be made by the trustees, are the overseers bound so to execute the trusts, or may they apply them to general parish purposes?] In such a case, it must be admitted that the funds cannot be applied to such general purposes; but *Doe dem. Jackson v. Hiley (a)* shews that this is no criterion, for the funds in that case were applicable only to purposes for which church rates are levied. [Coleridge J. *Doe dem. Higgs v. Terry (b)* is in your favour to a certain extent.] Then as to the estoppel, the order of the Master of the Rolls cannot be binding in an action for use and occupation. The action is against a public trustee, who cannot be estopped, and will be personally liable if the judgment be for the plaintiffs. Possession of the land was given to the trustees under the act, not by the plaintiffs, or by their assent or agreement, but by the law; for sect. 21 of stat. 17 G. 3. c. 64. gives them a right to build on it: they are therefore not estopped by payment of rent; *Rogers v. Pitcher (c)*. In *Gravenor v. Woodhouse (d)* even attornment, which is stronger than payment of rent, was held not to estop. Payment of rent made under a mis-

1838.

 ALLASON
 against
 STARK.

(a) 10 B. & C. 885.

(b) 4 A. & E. 274. See also *Doe dem. Hobbs v. Cockell*, 4 A. & E. 478.

(c) 6 Taunt. 202.

(d) 1 Bing. 38.

1838.

ALLASON
against
STARK.

take is no estoppel; *Gregory v. Doidge* (a): nor if the lessor's interest is expired; *Brook v. Biggs* (b). Besides, for many years after the passing of stat. 17 G. 3. c. 64. until 1821, no rent at all appears to have been paid.

Sir *W. W. Follett*, in reply. *Doe dem. Jackson v. Hiley* (c) is not in point. In that case the origin of the parish property did not appear; the feoffees were all dead; nor were there any feoffees in existence who held the land for purposes other than strictly parochial. If the rents cannot be applied (as is admitted) to the general parish fund, then the case is not within stat. 59 G. 3. c. 12. s. 17. It is not clear that the estates alluded to in sect. 21 of stat. 17 G. 3. c. 64. as "belonging to the poor" are the same as the land on which the workhouse is built; for the same persons appear by that act to be trustees of other lands besides *Butt's Field*. If the argument for the defendant is to prevail, then, even after the loan is repaid, and the annuitants are all dead, the trustees under Lady *Cambden's* will can receive no rents for the purposes of their trust. As to the estoppel; in *Doe dem. Morris v. Rosser* (d) even an award, upon a reference to a private person, was held to bind the title of a party to the submission. If no rent was paid until after 1821, it was, possibly, because all the annuitants were not dead. The defendant is exempted from personal responsibility by the same act, 7 G. 4. c. cxiii. s. 37., which enables parties to sue the trustees in the name of any one of them. In *Gravenor v. Woodhouse* (e) the attornment appears to have been obtained by fraud.

(a) 3 Bing. 474.

(b) 2 New Ca. 572.

(c) 10 B. & C. 885.

(d) 3 East, 11.

(e) 1 Bing. 38.

LORD DENMAN C. J. I have no doubt upon this case. The defendant is clearly liable. The plaintiffs are trustees for special purposes under the will of Lady *Camden*; and there is nothing to take the property out of them. Stat. 17 G. 3. c. 64. provides (sect. 3) that, after the monies borrowed shall be repaid, and the annuities shall all have died, then the trustees for the charity estates for the time being shall apply all the rents thereof to the purposes set forth in the will. How can they do this unless they are to receive them? The language of Lord *Tenterden*, in *Doe dem. Jackson v. Hiley (a)*, is certainly very large; but it must be taken with reference to the case then before him, in which the question was, whether the lands could there be considered as belonging to the parish. That case is satisfactorily explained by the fact that no feoffee appeared, nor any other person in whom the legal estate was vested. Stat. 59 G. 3. c. 12. was not intended to strip all trustees of their estates merely because the parish derived some benefit from the trust. I am happy that our judgment will not interfere with the opinion of Lord *Tenterden*.

I also think that the result of the proceeding before the Master of the Rolls was binding, and that the payment of rent since is conclusive under the circumstances.

PATTERSON J. I agree on all the points. As the charity estates are directed by sect. 1 to be let to the highest bidder, I am inclined to think that sect. 21 must apply to other lands, and not to that on which the workhouse is built. But, supposing the trustees for the poor had a right to build on the land, it does

1838.

ALLASON
against
STARK.

(a) 10 B. & C. 893.

1838.

ALLASON
against
STARK.

not follow that they must not pay a fair rent for it. *Doe dem. Jackson v. Hiley* (a) is an authority where all the trusts are for parish purposes; and it certainly seems to go to the extent of shewing that, in such cases, the estate is transferred from the heir of the surviving feoffee to the churchwardens and overseers. It is enough, in the present case, to say that this is a trust for special, and not for general, purposes, and that the land, of which the profits are to be so applied, cannot be called parish property. If it were otherwise, the probable consequence would be that the funds would be mixed up together, and those of the charity misapplied to the purpose of general relief.

As to the other point, the suit was an amicable one, instituted by mutual agreement, and the rent has been since paid in pursuance of the order then given. The parties acquiesced in the order, and paid rent during a long period with a full knowledge of all the facts. It is to be lamented that the trustees for the poor have not been content to abide by the direction of the Court.

WILLIAMS J. I am of the same opinion. The parish and the charity lands are distinct under the act. That the charity is in some degree in aid of the parish funds cannot make it parish land. In admitting that the charity funds cannot be applied generally to parish purposes, the Attorney-General shews that the land cannot pass to the parish officers under stat. 59 G. 3. c. 12.

As to the payment of rent, the long acquiescence of the parties is as binding and conclusive as any payment of rent can be, being the result of a friendly applica-

(a) 10 B. & C. 893.

tion to the Master of the Rolls with a view to settle all disputes on this subject.

1838.

ALLASON
against
STARK.

'COLERIDGE J. The plaintiffs have made out a *prima facie* case of landlord and tenant, which has not been rebutted by the defendant. The words of sect. 21 of stat. 17 G. 3. c. 64. must be meant to apply to other lands in the parish, and not to those which are strictly Lady *Cambden's* charity. She never gave lands to the parish, but to certain trustees for certain specified objects. Those objects differ materially from the ordinary objects of parish relief. Even the direction to apprentice children is confined to boys, and therefore cannot, as under the statute of *Elizabeth*, be extended to girls. The *Cambden* charities are clearly distinguished in stat. 17 G. 3. c. 64. from others; and, although their funds are made partially applicable to certain specified parish purposes, yet, when those purposes are fulfilled, the whole revert to the charity trustees, and are then to be solely applied to the objects of the charitable bequest. The cases of *Doe dem. Jackson v. Hiley (a)* and *Doe dem. Higgs v. Terry (b)* do not conflict with the present. *Doe dem. Jackson v. Hiley (a)* shews only that lands applicable to the purposes of a church rate may be considered as parish lands. In *Doe dem. Higgs v. Terry (b)* the origin of the charity did not appear, and the land had always been treated and demised as parish land.

S. Judgment for the plaintiffs (c).

(a) 10 B. & C. 885.

(b) 4 A. & E. 274.

(c) See *Attorney-General v. Lewin*, 8 Sim. 366.; *In re Paddington Charities*, *Ib.* 629.; *Ex parte Annesley*, 2 You. & Coll. 350.; *Alderman v. Neate*, 4 M. & W. 704.; and stat. 5 & 6 W. 4. c. 69. s. 3.

1838.

Wednesday,
November 28th.

HEYWOOD *against* COLLINGE.

An action on the case lies for *maliciously* and without reasonable or probable cause, arresting plaintiff, and detaining him until discharged by a Judge's order, pending a former suit by defendant for the same cause of action, in which plaintiff had been arrested and discharged out of custody by reason of defendant's delay in declaring.

To such action it is no defence that the second suit is still pending; and, *semble*, the action lies, although the party arresting had a good cause of action. *Quære*, whether it lies where the defendant obtained a Judge's order for the second arrest?

CASE. The declaration stated that defendant had sued a writ of *quo minus* out of the Court of Exchequer against one *J. Whyet* and plaintiff, indorsed for bail for 244*l.*, and had caused plaintiff to be thereupon arrested and imprisoned for that sum for a long space of time, until plaintiff obtained his discharge out of custody by reason of defendant's not having declared against plaintiff in due time according to the practice of the Court: and, whereas defendant could and might, if he had thought fit, have proceeded to and have obtained a judgment of the Court in that suit; and the said suit, before and at the time of committing the grievances after mentioned, was pending; yet defendant, well knowing the premises, but contriving to vex and harass the now plaintiff, and to cause him to be again arrested for 230*l.*, part of the said sum of 244*l.* and cause of action for which plaintiff had been before arrested and imprisoned, without the leave of the Court or any Judge or Baron thereof, or the leave of the Court of King's Bench or any Judge thereof, and *without any reasonable or probable cause*, wrongfully, vexatiously, *maliciously*, and oppressively caused to be sued out of the Court of King's Bench a *capias* in an action on promises at the suit of defendant against plaintiff, and wrongfully, vexatiously, *maliciously*, and oppressively caused it to be indorsed for bail for 230*l.*, being part of the said sum of 244*l.* and the same identical cause of action for which the now defendant had caused

caused plaintiff to be before arrested and imprisoned; and wrongfully, vexatiously, *maliciously*, and oppressively caused plaintiff (then being a prisoner) to be detained in custody under the last-mentioned writ for a long space of time, until he was, by a Judge's order, discharged out of custody as to the said last-mentioned action; by means whereof &c.

1838.

HETWOOD;
against
COLLINGS.

Plea. That "the said writ of *capias* in the declaration mentioned has not been set aside; and that the defendant has declared thereon in the last-mentioned Court; and that the last-mentioned cause of action was, before and at the commencement of this suit, and still is, depending in the said Court." Verification.

Demurrer, alleging for cause that the plea neither confessed and avoided nor traversed the cause of action, and that the pendency of the suit in the King's Bench was no answer to the present action. Joinder.

R. V. Richards, for the plaintiff. The action is, in substance, an action for maliciously arresting the plaintiff twice for the same cause. The plea is no answer to this; it only shews that the second action is still pending. In actions for malicious prosecution, or for malicious arrest, it is necessary to aver the determination of the prosecution or suit, because, until then, it does not appear whether the proceeding was groundless or not. Here the plaintiff does not say that there was no cause of action upon the occasion of the second arrest. In effect, he admits a good cause of action against him; but complains that he is maliciously vexed by a second arrest in respect of such cause. *Scheibel v. Fairbain* (a) is, in principle, an authority for the plaintiff; for, al-

(a) 1 B. & P. 388.

though

1838.

HETWOOD
against
COLLINGE.

though it was there held that an action would not lie for merely neglecting to countermand a *capias* after satisfaction of the debt, yet *Eyre C. J.* considered that, "had the defendant refused or wilfully neglected to countermand the writ, it might have afforded evidence on an averment of malice by which the action might have been sustained" (a). Here malice is averred throughout. *Page v. Wiple* (b) is to the same effect; and the language of the Court there shews that even mere neglect or non-feasance may be actionable when coupled with vexation and malice. *Crozer v. Pilling* (c) affirms the same principle. There is no instance in which an action will not lie for a malicious injury. To require that the plaintiff should aver the determination of the second action, might preclude him from suing at all for the injury occasioned by the second arrest; for, if the debt be due, which is not denied, the plaintiff in that action has a right to continue it, and must succeed, although he had no right to make a second arrest. Both the actions may, indeed, be continued, if the defendant in them does not plead *auter action pendent*. In *Grainger v. Hill* (d) a malicious abuse of the process of the Court by *capias* was held actionable, without alleging either a termination of the suit or the want of reasonable and probable cause. As there are many cases in which a defendant may be arrested more than once, and a Judge, though he may discharge from custody, can give no compensation, it will follow that, if this action is not sustainable, a creditor may, with impunity, harass his debtor by repeated arrests until the debt is paid.

(a) 1 B. & P. 338.

(c) 4 B. & C. 26.

(b) 3 East, 314.

(d) 4 New Ca. 212.

W. H. Watson, contra. The declaration is obscure; it is not clear whether the plaintiff complains of the issuing of a second writ without a Judge's order, or of the arrest under it without reasonable or probable cause. If the former be the ground, then the declaration does not sufficiently shew that no such order was obtained. If the second be the ground, then the determination of the suit must be averred. The declaration is in the usual form of an action for malicious arrest, except that two writs are mentioned instead of one. But, assuming the gravamen to be the arresting a second time without a Judge's order, a second arrest was, in many cases, warrantable without such order, before *R. Hil. 2 W. 4. l. 7. (a)*, *Olmius v. Delany (b)*; and non constat that the arrest was not before that rule. Nor is such order always necessary, even since the rule; *Richards v. Stuart (c)*, *Cantellow v. Freeman (d)*. Further, it is consistent with the declaration that an order of a Judge of the Common Pleas may have been obtained; and the subsequent discharge out of custody does not shew the arrest to have been illegal, for the ground of discharge does not appear. The action is unprecedented; no instance can be shewn of an action brought for arresting without an order, although prisoners are often discharged from custody for the want of one. Except where the practice of the Court prevents it, a party has a right to arrest twice for the same debt. The rule *K. B. Mich. 15 Car. 2. s. 2. (e)* was the first that abridged this right; but the limitation is still mere matter of practice, which cannot be pleaded (*g*), and a violation of which cannot

1838.

HEYWOOD
against
COLLINGS.

(a) 3 B. & Ad. 375.

(b) 2 Stra. 1216.

(c) 10 Bing. 322.

(d) 1 C. & M. 536. S. C. 3 Tyrwh. 579.

(e) See note (a) to *Quin v. Reynolds*, 3 M. & S. 144. *Peacock's Rules*, K. B. p. 54.(g) See *Sandon v. Proctor*, 7 B. & C. 800.

be

1838.

HEWWOOD
against
COLLINGE.

be a ground of action. The forms of law may often harass without adequate remedy. Here the proper remedies are to plead the pendency of the former action, and to obtain a discharge by a Judge's order; and the payment of costs will be a sufficient indemnity to the injured party. In *Stokes v. White (a)*, (where *Cameron v. Lightfoot (b)* was discussed), it was doubted whether any action would lie for arresting a privileged person. In *Crozer v. Pilling (c)* there was a tender of the debt and costs by the prisoner; and after such tender and refusal there was no cause of action upon which the creditor had a right to detain.

R. V. Richards, in reply. As to the argument of novelty, *Crozer v. Pilling (c)* and *Grainger v. Hill (d)* were both cases of the first impression; and, although many illegal second arrests may take place, cases of repeated malicious arrests for the same cause are not common. [Lord *Denman* C. J. Is it sufficiently averred that there was no order?] It matters not whether there was or was not any good cause of action, or any Judge's order obtained. Even if the second arrest took place under such order, it was obtained maliciously, and will be no justification in this form of action. The plaintiff in the former action may have wilfully made use of an affidavit full of falsehoods, and so succeeded in getting an order; in such a case is the party arrested to have no compensation? He may have lost a voyage by the second arrest; is he to have no remedy? That the motive in issuing the second *capias* was malicious is

(a) 4 *Tyr.* 786. *S. C.* 1 *C. M. & R.* 223. See *Watson v. Carroll*, 4 *M. & W.* 592.

(b) 2 *W. Bla.* 1190.

(c) 4 *B. & C.* 26.

(d) 4 *New. Ca.* 212.

admitted

admitted by the demurrer. Costs are no compensation for loss of liberty, but only for the charges of the action or proceeding. If there had been good ground for the second arrest (as in *Cantelow v. Freeman* (a), where there was a breach of faith), this would have been evidence to rebut the allegation of malice; but no such ground can be found or implied here. It rather appears to be a case in which a second arrest would not be allowed. *Cameron v. Lightfoot* (b) shews only that trespass is not the proper form of remedy; but the judgment of the Court in that case is in support of the present action. As to the allegation of a want of reasonable and probable cause, it is wholly immaterial; for the law will not permit repeated arrests to be made maliciously and without cause, even where there may be a good ground of action.

1838.

 HEYWOOD
 against
 COLLINGS.

LORD DENMAN C. J. The defendant, in his plea, treats the action as a common one for a malicious arrest without probable cause. If it were so, it would be bad for want of an averment that the suit was determined. But it is contended for the plaintiff that this is an action for a malicious abuse of the process of the Court by a second arrest for the same cause. I am unwilling to hold that the action is maintainable; for the defendant in arresting under a second writ does not necessarily appear to have done anything which he might not lawfully do, nor does the plaintiff appear to have suffered any damage in consequence of the second arrest. If, indeed, the plaintiff had shewn in his declaration that the defendant arrested him a second time from mo-

(a) 1 C. & M. 536. S. C. 3 Tyrw. 579.

(b) 2 W. Bl. 1190.

1838.

Haywood
against
Collinge.

tives merely vexatious, and without any reasonable expectation of advantage to himself from such arrest, it might have been different. However, the Court must here assume the arrest to have been malicious; and perhaps the words "without reasonable or, probable cause" may be taken to mean that the defendant knew he had no ground for the second arrest, and could derive no advantage from it. On the whole, therefore, the declaration, not having been specially demurred to, may be supported.

PATTESON J. This is not a case in which the mere practice of the Court has been made the ground of action; otherwise the declaration would have been bad: in its present form I think it is good upon general demurrer.

WILLIAMS J. The defendant should have demurred specially to the declaration.

COLERIDGE J. Any objection to defect of form in the declaration is, of course, not available on this record. Now, at all events, it states a malicious detention of the plaintiff in custody upon a second arrest for the same cause of action in respect of which he had been duly discharged out of custody upon the first. If an action is not sustainable under such circumstances, we must be prepared to hold that the process of the Court may be abused by a plaintiff for purposes however wanton and malicious. We may suppose the case of a party harassing the defendant under the forms of law by maliciously suing out three writs for the same cause on the same day, and successively arresting the defendant

ant on all three of them. In such a case, the principle of the law allows an action, although in form it may have some novelty.

S. Judgment for the plaintiff (a).

(a) See *Saxon v. Castle*, 6 A. & E. 652.; and the dictum of Lord Ellenborough C. J. in *Quin v. Reynolds*, 3 M. & S. 144, 145.

1838.

HEYWOOD
against
COLLINGS.

BARTRUM, Public Officer, &c. against CADDY.

Thursday,
November 29th.

ASSUMPSIT on a promissory note, by a banking copartnership suing in the name of their public officer under stat. 7 G. 4. c. 46. The declaration stated that *J. Hatherley* and *J. Hamlyn* made their joint and several promissory note for 200*l.*, payable to defendant or order on demand, and averred indorsement by defendant to the company, presentment to, and nonpayment by, the makers, and notice to defendant.

Plea 1. That, at the time of making the note, *Hatherley* and *Hamlyn* were jointly indebted to one *Bartlett* in 200*l.*, for which he required a security; that defendant thereupon, at their request, indorsed in blank the note mentioned in the declaration for their accommodation, and delivered it to them for the purpose of depositing it with *Bartlett* as such security, and to and for no other intent or purpose whatever: that the note was accordingly delivered for that purpose to *Bartlett*: that *Hatherley* and *Hamlyn* afterwards "paid to the said *Bartlett* the said debt," and *Bartlett* "thereupon redelivered to them the said note:" and that afterwards, and more

A note payable to A. or order on demand cannot be re-issued after payment by the maker.

In an action by the holder against the payee of such a note for 200*l.*, the plea averred that the defendant indorsed it at the request and for the accommodation of the maker, for the sole purpose of depositing it with B. as security for a debt of 200*l.* due from the maker to B.; that the maker afterwards paid the debt to B., who thereupon redelivered the note to the maker: Held, on general demurrer, that the above

statement was in effect an averment that the note had been paid by the maker: and therefore that the plea disclosed a sufficient defence.

Quare, whether the indorsee of an overdue note, payable on demand, be affected by its previous equities, unless he had notice that it was overdue?

VOL. IX.

U

than

1888.

BARTRUM
against
CADDY.

than two years from the date thereof, *Hamlyn* delivered it to plaintiffs to secure a debt due from himself alone to plaintiffs, without defendant's authority.

Plea 2. resembled the first plea, except that, after stating payment of the debt, and redelivery of the note to *Hatherley* and *Hamlyn*, it further averred that, although neither of them had any authority from defendant to negotiate the note after the redelivery thereof as aforesaid, yet *Hamlyn*, two years after the date thereof, wrongfully and in fraud of defendant, delivered the note to plaintiffs to secure a debt due from him to plaintiffs; and that plaintiffs, "having received the same from *Hamlyn* on his own private account, and at a period so long after the date thereof as before alleged, acted negligently, and did not use due and ordinary caution in so taking it."

General demurrer to both pleas.

Crowder, for the plaintiffs. No defence is shewn by the facts stated in either of the pleas. The plaintiffs as bonâ fide holders for value were not affected by the fraud of *Hamlyn*, of which it is not averred that they had notice. The note being indorsed generally, it was the business of the defendant to stop its circulation; and the fact of payment and redelivery to *Hatherley* and *Hamlyn*, without the plaintiffs' knowledge, makes no difference. The length of time elapsed before it was re-issued might be evidence of laches, but is not, in itself, a legal defence. The doctrine first introduced in *Gill v. Cubitt* (a), and recognised in several succeeding cases, and which is evidently relied upon in the second plea, cannot be supported, and has been shaken by more recent decisions:

(a) 3 B. & C. 466.

Crook v. Jadis (a), *Backhouse v. Harrison (b)*, *Foster v. Pearson (c)*, and *Goodman v. Harvey (d)*.

1838.

BARTRUM
against
CADDY.

Erle; *contra*. There are other objections to the plaintiffs' recovery than those which have been adverted to. 1. This is a satisfied note, and therefore not capable of being re-issued. The defendant, by indorsing the note, promises to pay in default of the makers. Here the whole of the sum of 200*l.* for which the note was given, has been paid, and the note returned into the hands of the original makers; the obligation of the defendant is therefore at an end, and it cannot be re-issued so as to charge him. *Freakley v. Fox (e)* is in point, and is a stronger case than the present, for that was an action against the maker. There the payee and holder had appointed the maker to be his executor, and, because this was, in its operation, a discharge of the note by the maker, it was held to be no longer capable of being indorsed by him as executor. The same doctrine is supported by *Beck v. Robley (g)*, *Thorogood v. Clarke (h)*, and *Burbridge v. Manners (i)*. In *Gomez Serra v. Berkeley (k)* the note had never been paid by the maker. *Callow v. Lawrence (l)* shews only that the acceptor continues liable till payment *by him*. This is the common case of a note given in payment for goods sold; when the goods are paid for and the note given up, the obligations upon the note are extinguished. But, in-

(a) 5 B. & Ad. 909.

(b) 5 B. & Ad. 1098.

(c) 1 C. M. & R. 849. S. C. 5 Tyrwh. 255.

(d) 4 A. & E. 870.

(e) 9 B. & C. 130.

(g) 1 H. Bl. 89. note (a).

(h) 2 Stark. N. P. C. 2

(i) 3 Camp. 194.

(k) 1 Wils. 46.

(l) 3 M. & S. 95.

1838.

BARTON
against
CADDY.

dependently of the common law, the re-issuing of a note of this kind is expressly prohibited by the Stamp Act, 55 G. 3. c. 184. (a); and sect. 19 vacates and discharges notes so re-issued. 2. This is an overdue note, and must, therefore, be taken subject to all equities. The note was indorsed as a security only, and for the maker's accommodation; and a note payable on demand is overdue, at least as soon as there has been a demand or presentment to the maker; *Barrough v. White* (b). The pleas shew that it came back into the hands of the makers, which is equivalent to a demand and is proof of it. [*Patteson J.* It is not averred in the plea that the plaintiffs had notice that it was overdue.] The party who takes an overdue bill is liable to equities without proof of notice. [*Lord Denman C. J.* It usually appears on the face of it to be overdue. *Patteson J.* Surely the plaintiffs must be fixed with a knowledge that the note had been presented, so as to be overdue?] *Banks v. Colwell* (c) and *Norton v. Ellam* (d) shew that a note payable on demand may be considered as due immediately. 3. A bygone debt is not a sufficient consideration to give a person, claiming under a fraudulent assignment, a title to recover. 4. Unless the Court overrules the cases founded on the doctrine in *Gill v. Cubitt* (e), there must be judgment for the defendant on the second plea.

Crowder, in reply. On the first point, the pleas do not distinctly aver that the note was paid; they only

(a) Schedule, Part 1. title *Promissory Note*, Class 2. *Moyser v. Whitaker*, 9 B. & C. 409., shews that such a note is within the second class, and therefore not re-issuable.

(b) 4 B. & C. 325.

(c) Cited in *Brown v. Davis*, 3 T. R. 81.

(d) 2 M. & W. 461.

(e) 3 B. & C. 466.

state that the *debt* was paid, and note redelivered. The facts alleged may be evidence of payment, and might be properly submitted as such to a jury, but they are not in themselves equivalent to payment. The cases cited are all cases of payment by parties primarily liable on notes payable at a fixed time. *Roberts v. Eden* (a) shews that a note may pass backwards and forwards between the parties to it, and be successively re-issued without affecting the liability of the maker. [*Patteson J.* There it passed between payee and indorsee, and was never paid by the party originally liable.] The payment of the debt here may, or may not, have amounted to a satisfaction of the note. It may have been given to secure a fluctuating balance. Suppose the note differed in amount from the debt, as 250*l.* instead of 200*l.*: then as to 200*l.* the transaction might amount to payment; but as to the residue the note would be unsatisfied, and therefore re-issuable. The accidental coincidence between the amount of the note and the debt can make no difference. It may have been redelivered, yet not paid. The payment of it is mere matter of inference, and ought to have been directly stated, so as to enable the plaintiffs to take issue on it. *Freakley v. Fox* (b) is the only material case cited on this point on the other side, and that in fact only decided that the executorship of the maker was tantamount to payment. [On the other points he was stopped by the Court.]

Lord DENMAN C. J. We are satisfied upon the first point. The object of the parties in the second plea was probably to have the opinion of the Court on the doc-

1838.

 BARTON
against
CADDY.

(a) 1 B. & P. 396.

(b) 9 B. & C. 190.

1838.

BARTRUM
against
CADDY.

trine held in *Gill v. Cubitt (a)*, which has been more than questioned. On this we shall be prepared to decide when necessary. It is sufficient for the present case to say that the sum for which this note was given has been paid, and the bill redelivered. Then the act of parliament, 55 G. 3. c. 184. s. 19., applies, and prohibits the re-issuing of it. *Freakley v. Fox (b)* also assumes the same doctrine.

PATTESON J. The question whether the payment of the debt and redelivery of the note would or would not, under certain circumstances, amount to repayment, does not arise here. The note appears to have been made by *Hatherley* and *Hamlyn*, indorsed by the defendant, and delivered to them for the purpose of depositing it with *Bartlett* as a security for his debt, "and to and for no other intent or purpose whatever." The pleas aver payment of the debt, being the precise amount of the note, by the persons primarily liable on the note. This seems to be a payment of the specific sum due on the note. If so, it is immaterial whether *Hamlyn* issued it on his private account or not. Then after such payment the act 55 G. 3. c. 184. s. 19. distinctly prohibits the re-issuing. *Freakley v. Fox (b)* seems to take for granted the same law. Lord *Tenterden* there says, "It is contended that by the appointment of the maker to the office of executor the note was discharged, so that an indorsement, even by the debtor himself, could not set it up and make it a binding instrument; and we are of that opinion" (c). In that case, the payee or his executors might have indorsed and re-issued

(a) 3 B. & C. 466.

(b) 9 B. & C. 130.

(c) 9 B. & C. 133.

;

the note according to the doctrine contended for by the plaintiffs in this case. *Beck v. Robley (a)* and *Thorogood v. Clarke (b)* are also in point. In *Roberts v. Eden (c)* the note was never in fact in the hands of *Eden*, the maker, though all accounts were settled between him and the payee: it was then outstanding in the hands of an indorsee. Here the note had returned into the hands of the makers, and neither of them had any power to put it in circulation again.

1838.

BARTUM
against
CADDY.

WILLIAMS J. It is admitted on behalf of the plaintiffs that payment would put an end to the bill, but it is contended that nothing but the very word *payment* will suffice in pleading. This is substantially an allegation of payment, and sufficient, at least on general demurrer. The plea states payment of the precise sum secured by the note, and redelivery of the note thereupon.

COLERIDGE J. The only question is, do the first and second pleas disclose payment, however informally? If the statement had been that *Hatherley* and *Hamlyn* had given the note for goods sold, and that the goods were afterwards paid for by them, and the note redelivered to them, there could have been little doubt, on general demurrer, that this would have sufficiently averred payment and satisfaction of the note. The difficulty here arises from this being the case of an antecedent debt, and a note given as a security for it. It was however given to cover the specific debt mentioned in the plea, and "for no other purpose." Cases have been ingeniously put of a bill or note given as a security for a debt of

(a) 1 H. BL. 89. note (a).

(b) 2 Stark. N. P. C. 251.

(c) 1 B. & P. 398.

1838.

BARTRUM
against
CADDY.

varying amount, or for a fluctuating balance; it is sufficient to say that such is not the case here. If then it appears that the note has been satisfied by the makers, the statute dispenses with any notice, and the instrument becomes waste paper.

S.

Judgment for the defendant.

Thursday,
November 29th.

GOMPERTZ *against* LEVY.

A declaration for libel alleged, without any material introductory averment, that defendant published of and concerning plaintiff the false, scandalous, and defamatory libel following, viz. : " Notice, — any person giving information where any property may be found belonging to *H. G.* (meaning the plaintiff), a prisoner in the King's Bench prison, but residing within the rules thereof, shall receive 5 per cent. upon the goods recovered, for their trouble, by applying at *Mr. L.*" &c. (meaning the defendant, and meaning that the plaintiff had been and was

CASE for libel. The declaration, after the usual introductory averments of good character, stated that defendant maliciously intending to injure and disgrace plaintiff, and to cause it to be suspected that he had been guilty of the misconduct thereafter imputed to him, falsely and maliciously published of and concerning plaintiff a false, scandalous, and defamatory libel, containing the false, scandalous, and defamatory matter following of and concerning plaintiff, that is to say, " Notice, — any person giving information where any property may be found belonging to *Henry Gompertz* (meaning the plaintiff), a prisoner in the King's Bench prison, but residing within the rules thereof at 3, 4, and 5, *Portland Place, Borough Road*, shall receive 5 per cent. upon the goods recovered, for their trouble, by applying at *Mr. Levy, Fetter Lane, Fleet Street*" (thereby then meaning the defendant, and also thereby then meaning that the plaintiff had been and was guilty of concealing his property with a fraudulent and unlawful intention). By means whereof &c.

The plea stated several judgments recovered by defendant guilty of concealing his property with a fraudulent and unlawful intention). Held, on general demurrer, that the innuendo, unsupported by any prefatory averment, was too large; and that the words, in themselves, were not actionable.

defendant

defendant against plaintiff, and writs of execution issued; that plaintiff was living in apparent affluence a prisoner within the rules of the King's Bench prison, yet the sheriff was unable to find any goods of plaintiff whereon to levy; wherefore defendant, being desirous to obtain information, and in order to discover property of the plaintiff, so that the sheriff might execute the writs, &c., published &c., as he lawfully might; the said matter being published bonâ fide for the purpose of obtaining such information aforesaid for the purpose aforesaid; which are the same &c. Verification.

Replication. That the judgments were entered up against plaintiff upon warrants of attorney given by plaintiff to defendant: that, after the said recoveries, and after the issuing of the said writs of execution, plaintiff exhibited a bill in the exchequer against defendant, complaining that the warrants of attorney had been obtained from plaintiff, as the truth was, fraudulently and without any consideration, and praying an injunction to restrain any further proceeding, or other action, in respect of the said warrants: that an injunction was accordingly issued, commanding defendant not to prosecute any action, or enter up any judgment, or sue out or levy any execution against plaintiff, but to desist from further proceedings until defendant should answer the bill: that defendant had not answered the bill, and that the injunction was still in force. Verification.

General demurrer.

Higgins, for the defendant. The replication is no answer to the plea, but admits that the notice was published bonâ fide for the purpose of obtaining information

1838.

COMPERTZ
against
LEVY.

as

1838.

—
GOMPERTZ
against
LEVY.

as to plaintiff's property. The notice is, in fact, no libel at all, but an advertisement which the plaintiff himself may have issued for his own benefit. *Stockley v. Clement (a)* is a similar case.

Butt, contra. The notice, as explained by the innuendo, is a libel. Whether it admits of the meaning assigned to it or not, is a question for the jury. In *Stockley v. Clement (a)* there was no innuendo; an omission which was adverted to by the Court in that case. Here the innuendo is, that the plaintiff had secreted his property; and the words may fairly be construed to convey that imputation. In *Stockley v. Clement (a)* only the general issue was pleaded; here there is a special plea, which, in effect, admits the meaning attributed to the libel. [Lord Denman C. J. You call the words scandalous and defamatory; should you not state facts to shew how they are so?] These words are not traversable, therefore particularity of statement is not required. *Brown v. Croome (b)* shews that an advertisement like this is a libel, even where the avowed object of it may be legitimate; and in that case, also, there was nothing in the advertisement itself necessarily disparaging to the plaintiff. If, as is contended, the notice was published with the plaintiff's authority, the plea should shew it. Even rejecting the innuendo, and taking the words as a mere statement that the plaintiff is a prisoner for debt in the King's Bench prison, they are libellous, for they tend to disparage and bring him into disrepute. They impute to him, in substance, either that he has dishonestly refused to pay his debts, or that he has dis-

(a) 4 Bing. 162.

(b) 2 Stark. N. P. Ca. 297.

honestly

honestly incurred debts which he cannot pay. It is like advertising a man to be a swindler, which, if in print, would be a libel.

1838.

GOMPERTZ
against
LEVY.

LORD DENMAN C. J. This is no libel. It might be one if additional facts and circumstances had been stated shewing the situation of the defendant, so as to warrant the innuendo. Here the innuendo attempts to give to the words an import which they do not necessarily bear.

PATTESON J. *Goldstein v. Foss (a)* shews that an innuendo cannot be used to enlarge the meaning of words without prefatory averments. The declaration does not even state that the words were spoken of and concerning property of the plaintiff supposed to have been concealed by him.

WILLIAMS J. The innuendo is too large. It is like the case in which "my barn" was alleged, by innuendo, to mean "my barn full of corn" (b). The rule is clearly laid down in *Rex v. Horne (c)*.

COLERIDGE J. Without the innuendo, the words only import that the plaintiff is a prisoner for debt. This is not, of necessity, a libel, nor does the addition of the innuendo make it one. An innuendo will not serve without introductory averments, unless there be a natural connection between the words and the meaning assigned to them; otherwise, to say of a man that "he is gone to *America*," might be made a libel by

(a) 4 Bing. 489.

(b) *Barham's Case*, 4 Co. 20 a.

(c) *Cowp.* 672.; and see note (4) to *Craft v. Bolie*, 1 Saund. 242.; and *Day v. Robinson*, 1 A. & E. 554.

1838.

COMPERTZ
against
LEVY.

adding an innuendo that he did so to avoid paying his creditors.

S.

Judgment for the defendant (a).

(a) The following case was argued and decided in last *Michaelmas* term.

Tuesday,
November 13th.

WHEELER against HAYNES.

Declaration for slander stated that, at the time of the speaking &c., plaintiff worked for and was employed by one *B. Glass* in his barn, in and about thrashing *Glass's* corn, and that defendant, intending to cause it to be believed that plaintiff had been guilty of felony, falsely and maliciously spoke of and concerning plaintiff the words, "I saw *J. G.* coming across Mr. *Glass's* barton with some barley, and my son said 'What art going to do with that?' *J. G.* said he was going to feed pheasants with it, and said, where he had that he could have more, and that he had it at farmer *Glass's* barn" (meaning the said barn belonging to the said *B. Glass*, wherein the plaintiff was so at work and employed as aforesaid, and that the barley so alleged by defendant to have been in the possession of *J. G.* was the property of the said *B. Glass*, and that plaintiff had stolen the same from the said *B. Glass*, and given the same to the said *J. G.*). Averment of special damage.

SLANDER. The declaration stated that plaintiff, until &c., had never been guilty or suspected to have been guilty of felony or theft; that, before and at the time when &c., he had been and was in the service and employment of *Benjamin Glass*, as a labourer, and in that capacity had always behaved honestly &c.; and that plaintiff and one *Hugh Hill*, at the time of the committing of the grievance, were at work for, and employed by, the said *B. G.*, in a certain barn belonging to the said *B. G.*, in and about the thrashing certain corn there of the said *B. G.*; yet defendant, well knowing &c., but contriving &c., and to cause it to be suspected &c. that plaintiff had been guilty of felony, and to subject him to the pains and penalties &c., on &c., in a certain discourse which defendant then had of and concerning plaintiff in the presence and hearing &c., then, in the presence and hearing &c., falsely and maliciously spoke and published of and concerning plaintiff these false &c. (that is to say): "I (meaning himself the said defendant) saw one *John Gay* coming across Mr. *Glass's* barton with some barley, and my (meaning his the said defendant's) son *Henry Haynes* said, 'What art going to do with that?' *Gay* said he was going to feed pheasants with it (meaning the said barley); and said, where he had that he could have more, and that he had it (meaning the said barley) at farmer *Glass's* barn (meaning the said barn belonging to the said *Benjamin Glass*, wherein the plaintiff was so at work and employed as aforesaid, and thereby also meaning that the said barley so alleged by the defendant to have been in the possession of the said *John Gay* was the property of the said *Benjamin Glass*, and that the plaintiff had stolen the same from the said *Benjamin Glass*, and given the same to the said *John Gay*)." By means whereof plaintiff hath been injured &c., and divers persons have believed him to have been guilty of felony &c. It was also averred that, by reason of the slander, *Glass* dismissed plaintiff from his employment. General demurrer. The principal ground stated in

Held bad, the innuendo not being borne out by the other parts of the count. And that a demurrer to such count did not imply any admission by which the defect could be aided.

the

the margin of the paper-book was, that the innuendo alleging that the words charged plaintiff with having stolen barley from *Benjamin Glass* was not warranted by the words set out, nor supported by any inducement or previous statement to which it could refer. It was also objected that the words were not alleged to have been spoken concerning plaintiff's employment by, and working for, *Glass* in the barn &c. Joinder in demurrer. The Court called upon

1838.

WHEELER
against
HAYNES.

Bevan to support the declaration. The demurrer admits the fact alleged in the innuendo, that the words were spoken with a certain intent; the only question remaining is, whether they will admit of, not whether they must necessarily receive, the construction given to them. In 1 *Starkie on Libel*, 87. (2d ed.) it is said to be "of no importance whether the terms used be doubtful, or even apparently innocent, provided it can be shewn that they could and did convey the offensive meaning which forms the ground of complaint." Here that would have been for the jury on a trial; and, if the jury had found a verdict for the plaintiff, it is clear, from the dicta of the Judges in *Sweetapple v. Jesse* (5 B. & Ad. 27.), that the Court, on motion in arrest of judgment, would have been bound to presume all facts proved which were necessary to support the declaration. [Lord Denman C. J. Is any fact stated in this declaration which could warrant the jury in finding that words imputing felony were spoken?] The plaintiff would have to prove on the trial that that imputation was conveyed. The innuendo here is legitimate according to the office of an innuendo, as described in note (n) to *Com. Dig., Action upon the case for defamation* (G. 10.), 5th (*Hammond's*) ed. In *Mountney v. Watton* (2 B. & Ad. 678.), where the justification was held insufficient, the words of the alleged libel, so far as they were justified, did not conclusively infer a charge of horse-stealing; and Lord Tenterden said, "If the words of the alleged libel did not amount to a charge of felony, the defendant, on a trial, would have succeeded upon the general issue." The question, therefore, as in the present case, would have been for the jury. Besides, the declaration here clearly shews that a special damage, namely the dismissal of the plaintiff from *Glass's* service, resulted from the words used; and that will sustain the action, according to the doctrine laid down, particularly by *Parke* and *Patteson* Js., in *Knight v. Gibbs* (1 A. & E. 43.). [Lord Denman C. J. There it was argued that, because the party to whom the slanderous words were addressed did not believe them, the injury did not result from them; but the facts shewed that it did. The former part of your argument would go to the extent that, if a man said, such a one walked out of the Court of Queen's Bench, it might be a question for a jury whether the speaker did not mean that the party had committed felony there.] In this case the demurrer admits the sense in which the words are said to have been spoken. [Lord Denman C. J. The demurrer means that the plaintiff has given no premises from which the suggested inference would arise.] In *Digby v. Thompson* (4 B. & Ad.

1838.

WHEELER
against
HAYNES.

Ad. 821.) it was argued, and not denied by the Court, that a demurrer admits the intent charged by an innuendo. [Lord *Denman* C. J. I confess I cannot quite see that. And the decision there is applicable to a case of libel, not words.]

Kelly, contra, was not heard.

Per Curiam (Lord *Denman* C. J., *Patteson*, *Williams*, and *Coleridge* Js.)
Judgment for the defendant.

Friday,
November 30th.

PITCHER *against* KING.

No action lies against the sheriff for a false return of nulla bona by his bailiff to a writ of fi. fa. issued out of his county court, although it be alleged in the declaration that defendant had notice of the goods, and that the return was made with his privity and by his direction.

To an action for a false return to a writ of fi. fa. on a judgment in the court of K. B., it is no plea that the plaintiff, after the return of the writ, brought an action of debt on the judgment, and obtained a second judgment thereon.

CASE for false return by the sheriff of *Sussex*. The first count stated a recovery by plaintiff against one *Bean* in the county court of *Sussex*, and a writ of fi. fa. issued by defendant, then being sheriff, to his bailiff, to levy the debt and costs: that, although there were goods of the said *Bean* in defendant's bailiwick, whereon defendant and his bailiff might have levied, whereof defendant and his bailiff had notice, yet neither defendant nor his bailiff levied the monies; and the said bailiff, "with the privity and by the direction of the defendant as such sheriff," falsely returned to defendant that the said *Bean* had no goods within his bailiwick.

The second count stated a judgment recovered in the Court of King's Bench, and a writ of fi. fa. issued against the same *Bean*, under which defendant had seized his goods and levied part of the monies, but falsely returned that the goods remained unsold for want of buyers.

Plea to first count. That, after the return of the writ therein mentioned, and before the commencement of this suit, plaintiff brought an action of debt in the

Court

Court of King's Bench on the judgment in the county court, and recovered a judgment in the said Court of K. B., by means whereof the judgment in the county court was merged in the judgment so recovered in the Court of K. B., and satisfied; and plaintiff thereby waived his said writ of *fi. fa.*, and released and discharged defendant from the premises. Verification.

The plea to the second count stated, in nearly the same terms, a similar judgment recovered in an action on the judgment in the Court of K. B. mentioned in the second count, "by means whereof the judgment in the second count mentioned became and was merged in the last-mentioned judgment, and was and is satisfied in law, and the plaintiff thereby waived and abandoned his writ of *fi. fa.*, and all benefit therefrom, and released and discharged the now defendant from the premises."

Special demurrer to each plea.

Channell, for the plaintiff. The question upon the pleas is, whether the second recovery in this Court merges or satisfies either the judgment in the county court, or the previous judgment in this Court. It is no bar to the action either in respect of the first or the second count. The plea does not deny the wrongful act of the defendant, nor shew anything to deprive the plaintiff of his vested right of action. That right cannot be defeated by matter *ex post facto* between the plaintiff and a third party, not producing satisfaction. *Wordall v. Smith* (a) is stronger than this case; for there the plaintiff had actually taken his debtor in execution before he sued the sheriff. In *Godsall v. Boldero* (b)

1838.

 FITCHER
against
KING.
(a) 1 *Camp.* 332.(b) 9 *East*, 72.

1838.

PITCHER
against
KING.

the action was on a contract of indemnity, and therefore stands on a different principle. *Yates v. Whyte* (a), *Willoughby v. Backhouse* (b), and *Sells v. Hoare* (c) are in point.

It will be contended that the first count is bad, the sheriff in his county court being a judicial and not a ministerial officer, and, therefore, not liable for the acts of his bailiff, and *Holroyd v. Breare* (d), *Tunno v. Morris* (e), and *Tinsley v. Nassau* (g) will be relied on: but the form of the count here is material; for the false return of the bailiff is alleged to have been made "with the privity and by the direction" of the defendant, who is also shewn to have had notice of the goods. This distinguishes the case from others.

Platt, contra, was desired by the Court to confine himself to the point upon the second count. The plea to the second count is good. The plaintiff has no right to a double remedy. The principle of transit in rem judicatam applies. Where there has been a judgment on a bond or recognisance, that judgment is an answer to any further proceeding on the bond or the recognisance; so, where there is a judgment in an action of debt upon a judgment, the first judgment can be no longer enforced, otherwise the plaintiff might now bring a third action upon the first judgment. Debt will not lie on a judgment after execution sued out, "for the plaintiff has chosen another remedy;" *Com. Dig. Debt*,

(a) 4 *New Ca.* 272.(b) 2 *B. & C.* 821.(c) 1 *Bing.* 401.(d) 2 *B. & Ald.* 473.(e) 2 *C. M. & R.* 298. *S. C.* 5 *Tyr.* 949.(g) *Moo. & Mal.* 52.

(A.) 2. So here the plaintiff has released and abandoned all advantage from the first judgment by his recovery in the second action. The plaintiff should have sued out a venditioni exponas, and so compelled the defendant to levy upon the writ. *Wordall v. Smith* (a) is founded on no intelligible principle, and is the only case in favour of the plaintiff's argument. If the plaintiff may recover in this action, he may also get execution on his last judgment, and so have a double satisfaction. Perhaps this Court might interfere; but the exercise of such equitable jurisdiction can make no difference as to the legal rights of the parties, nor affect the argument as founded on them.

Lord DENMAN C.J. We think the first count is bad, and the plea no answer to the second.

PATTESON, WILLIAMS, and COLERIDGE Js. concurred.

Judgment for the defendant on the first
S. count; for the plaintiff on the second.

(a) 1 Camp. 332.

1838.

PITCHER
against
KING.

1838.

Friday,
November 30th.

DANGERFIELD against THOMAS.

Debt on bond.
Plea: bankruptcy of plaintiff, fiat, &c., concluding that, "by reason of the premises, the assignees became entitled to the debt and cause of action;" Held, that the latter allegation was not traversable.

The replication stated that plaintiff had, by indenture before his bankruptcy, assigned the bond to G. and E. as a security for a larger debt, and that the action was prosecuted for their benefit: Held, that no profit of the indenture was necessary.

A money bond, assigned by the obligee to creditors to secure a debt of larger amount, does not pass to assignees under a fiat against him, although the assignment is expressed to be "for further security," and contains a proviso to defeat it on payment of the debt.

DEBT on bond in the penal sum of 1250*l*.

Plea. That plaintiff, being a trader within the provisions of the Bankrupt Act, had become bankrupt; that a fiat issued against him; that he was duly declared a bankrupt, and J. and K. were appointed assignees; "by reason of which premises, and by force of the statute, the said J. and K. became and were assignees of the estate and effects of the plaintiff, and entitled to the said debt or sum and cause of action in the declaration mentioned."

Replication. That, before plaintiff became bankrupt, and before the issuing of the fiat, by a certain indenture between plaintiff of the one part, and J. Gardiner and M. Elgie of the other, — reciting that plaintiff was indebted to the said J. G. and M. E. in the sum of 1580*l*., exclusive of costs, as appeared by a cognovit under the hand of plaintiff, and in a further sum of 80*l*. for certain costs and charges, making together the sum of 1660*l*., and reciting that defendant had become bound to plaintiff in the penal sum of 1250*l*. conditioned for payment to plaintiff of 625*l*., with lawful interest (meaning thereby the said bond in the declaration mentioned), and reciting the inability of plaintiff to pay the said sum of 1660*l*., and the agreement of plaintiff to assign to the said J. G. and M. E., and of the said J. G. and M. E. to accept, the said bond "as a further security" for the debt due to them, — plaintiff in pursuance thereof assigned to the said J. G. and

M. E.

M. E. the said bond, with all principal and interest due, or to be due, thereon, and all the benefit and advantage thereof to be made or obtained by means thereof, or by any process or execution thereupon sued out or executed, and all right, title, &c., of plaintiff to the said bond and moneys, and all powers and remedies for recovering the same to their own use and benefit, subject nevertheless to the proviso that, if plaintiff should pay to *J. G.* and *M. E.* the said sum of 1660*l.*, with interest, on a day therein named (*a*), the indenture should be void. That plaintiff, by the said indenture, appointed the said *J. G.* and *M. E.* his lawful attorneys irrevocably in his name, but for their own sole use and benefit, to sue for and recover from defendant the said sum of 620*l.* and interest, when the same became due on the said bond &c., "as by the said indenture of assignment, reference being thereto had, will more fully appear;" whereof defendant, before plaintiff became bankrupt, and before the issuing of the fiat, had notice. The replication further averred that plaintiff, at the time of making the said indenture, was justly indebted to the said *J. G.* and *M. E.* as therein alleged, and that he did not pay them the said sum of 1660*l.* on the day named, nor at any other time, and that there was and still is due to them, on account of the said 1660*l.*, a large sum, to wit 800*l.*, which greatly exceeds the amount due upon and by virtue of the bond mentioned in the declaration; that the action was commenced and is prosecuted, in the name of plaintiff, for the sole use and benefit, and at the instance, of *J. G.* and *M. E.*,

1838.

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DANGERFIELD
against
THOMAS.

(*a*) This was the 1st March 1836. It was not shewn whether this was before or after the bankruptcy. The dates of the fiat and adjudication were stated under *videlicet*.

1838.

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DANGERFIELD
against
THOMAS.

and for the purpose of enabling them to recover the money due on the said bond in part satisfaction of the debt so due from plaintiff, according to the form and effect of the indenture of assignment, and not for the use or benefit of plaintiff, or his said assignees or creditors under the fiat. Verification.

Demurrer, assigning, for causes, the want of profert, or excuse of profert, of the indenture of assignment; that the replication neither confessed and avoided nor traversed the matters in the plea, but left it uncertain whether the plaintiff admitted or denied that the bond debt passed to the assignees of the bankrupt; that it attempted to put in issue matter of inference and law, viz., whether the debt became vested in the assignees by the bankruptcy, admitting the facts stated in the plea; and was argumentative &c. Joinder.

Swann, in support of the demurrer. 1. The plea concludes by stating that the cause of action became vested in the assignees under the fiat. This is intended to be denied by the plaintiff, and should therefore have been traversed. On the replication, as the plaintiff has framed it, the defendant can take issue only on one point. All the facts taken together amount only to an argumentative traverse. 2. There should be a profert of the deed of assignment to the two creditors *Gardiner* and *Elgie*. The plaintiff, in fact, relies upon, and justifies under the parties to, that deed, and is therefore bound to produce it: *Com. Dig. Pleader* (O. 6.). He is identified in interest with them, and could not maintain his replication without the deed. It is in their possession, and they are the real plaintiffs, for whose benefit the action is brought. It is not mere inducement,

ment, but the foundation of his title, as stated in the replication. 3. The replication is bad on general demurrer; for this is not an absolute assignment of the debt, but only a mortgage of it with a proviso of redemption. Therefore some beneficial interest remained in the bankrupt, and passed to his assignees under the fiat, for he might have filed a bill to redeem the security. In *Carvalho v. Burn* (a) *Littledale J.* states the rule to be, that "if, at the time of the bankruptcy, the bankrupt possessed the possibility of interest from which a benefit to his creditors might result; if he had the legal interest in any property, and it was uncertain whether he would hold any part of it, or, if any, what part, as trustee for others; the whole would pass by the assignment." *Carpenter v. Marnell* (b) is to the same effect. There should be an averment that no interest whatever could or did pass to the assignees. Besides, the assignment is made only as a "further security," so that there may be other securities in the hands of the assignees of the bond, which can therefore only be made to contribute rateably with the rest. In *Leslie v. Guthrie* (c) the assignment was absolute, and not merely by way of mortgage; and in *Winch v. Keeley* (d), though there was a proviso of a similar kind, the point was not made.

R. V. Richards, contra, was stopped by the Court as to the first point. As to the want of profert, this is not a deed under which the plaintiff claims at all; he has no right to the possession of it. He only pleads it to rebut the general assignment under the bankruptcy. The bond,

(a) 4 B. & Ad. 393. Affirmed on error, *Burn v. Carvalho*, 1 A. & E 883.

(b) 3 B. & P. 40.

(c) 1 New Ca. 697.

(d) 1 T. R. 619.

1838.

DANGERFIELD
against
THOMAS.

1838.

DANCRVILLE
against
THOMAS.

and not the assignment of it, is his title. The general exceptions to the necessity of profert are stated in the notes to *Jevens v. Harridge* (a). Here the deed is mere inducement, and shews no legal interest whatever. [Lord DENMAN C. J. We think your answer sufficient on this point.] As to the third point, if, in *Winch v. Keeley* (b), no such point was made, it must be inferred that the point was not considered tenable. That case is an authority, though it has not been supported to its full extent. *Dean v. James* (c) shews that notice to the defendant was necessary, which is here averred. It is admitted that there was a just debt; that it exceeds the amount of the bond; and that it was not paid on the day named in the deed. The assignees, therefore, can have no interest in it, unless they redeem it by paying more than its value.

Swann, in reply. As to profert, it is immaterial that the deed passes no legal interest, for profert must be made even of a deed of attornment, when a deed is necessary; *Com. Dig. Pleader* (O. 7.). Nor is it mere inducement, but the very ground of the replication.

LORD DENMAN C. J. The plaintiff is entitled to judgment. The first objection has no foundation. The replication confesses the facts in the plea, but shews that all interest in the bond had been made over to the two assignees, *Gardiner* and *Elgie*. To traverse the conclusion of the plea would be to traverse mere matter of law. As to the second objection, the plaintiff's title is on the bond; the assignment of it only prevents it from vesting in the assignees under the fiat. Messrs. *Gardiner* and *Elgie* had an interest under the deed adverse to that of

(a) 1 *Wms. Saund.* 9. 5th ed.(b) 1 *T. R.* 619.(c) 1 *A. & E.* 809.; and see *Buck v. Lee*, *Ibid.* 804.

the plaintiff; and the latter has no right to possession of the bond. On the third point, this is a complete transfer of the equitable interest in the bond. It appears on the pleadings that the security pledged is altogether for money; had land been the subject of the mortgage, perhaps it might have been necessary to shew that no beneficial interest remained in the mortgagor.

1838.

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DANGERFIELD
against
THOMAS.

PATTERSON J. I am of the same opinion. The plea concludes, that, by reason of the premises, and by force of the statute, the said *J.* and *K.* became assignees of the estate, and entitled to the said debt and cause of action. To traverse this would be a traverse of a *virtute cujus* in its strictest sense, and would admit all the preceding facts in the plea (*a*). As to the want of profert, it is unnecessary. If, indeed, there could be an assignment at law, and the assignees had been the plaintiffs, they must have made profert of the deed. The necessity of profert stands on the relation of the parties on the record; and, although the action is certainly brought for the benefit of the assignees, yet this is not, for all purposes, the same as if it had been brought by the assignees themselves in their own names. The deed is here inducement only, and not the foundation of the action. On the third point, it appears that the debt is of larger amount than the sum due on the bond. If, indeed, it had appeared that there were other securities given for the same debt, so as to make it doubtful whether there might not be some beneficial interest in the bond remaining in the obligee after payment of his debt, it might have been necessary to make some

(a) See note (5) to *Bennet v. Filkins*, *Wms. Sound.* 23. *Craven v. Sanderson*, 4 A. & E. 666.

1838.

DANGERFIELD
against
THOMAS.

further averments: what the effect might have been, if the amount due on the bond had been greater than the debt due from the obligee, it is unnecessary for us to decide.

WILLIAMS J. The assignment is no part of the plaintiff's title, but is inconsistent with, and adverse to, it. As to the interest remaining in the assignor under the circumstances stated in the pleadings, I am at a loss to discover what it could be.

COLERIDGE J. Profert is not required of a party not entitled to possession of the deed. Here it is an instrument adverse to the plaintiff's title; and, although there may be an identity of interest between the plaintiff and the parties who are suing in his name by virtue of the assignment, yet on a question of profert we must look only to the actual parties on the record, and the interest which they derive under the instrument referred to.

S.

Judgment for the plaintiff.

Friday,
November 30th.

BATSON and others *against* SPEARMAN.

Debt against *A.*
on a joint and
several bond by
A., B., and C.
By the con-
dition (which

DEBT on bond. The bond was a joint and several one by defendant, by *G. Rutherford*, and by *Henry Boag*. The condition, as set out on oyer, was the recited an agreement by the plaintiffs, bankers, to advance moneys not exceeding 200*l.* at any one time, to *B.* on security, the bond was to be void if *A., B., and C.,* or either of them, should pay to the plaintiffs all such sums not exceeding 200*l.* as plaintiffs should advance for or on account of bills from time to time drawn by *B.* on plaintiffs, *within three calendar months "after receiving notice to pay such sums."* Held, that the bond was a continuing security.

Held also, on general demurrer, that, in assigning a breach of the condition, it was not enough to aver that defendant "had and received notice" that certain sums were due from *B.,* without averring a notice or request to pay.

following:

following: "Whereas the said *G. Rutherford* hath opened an account with the said *W. S. Batson, J. Wilson, and J. Langhorn*" (the plaintiffs) "at their agent's office in *Alnwick* in the county of *Northumberland*, and the said *W. S. Batson, J. Wilson, and J. Langhorn* have agreed to discount bills of exchange and otherwise pay, lend, and advance to or for the said *G. Rutherford*, if he should have occasion, any sum or sums of money, not exceeding at any one or more time or times the sum of 200*l.* in the whole, upon having such security for the repayment thereof, with interest, as is contained in the above-written obligation with such condition as hereinafter contained. Now the condition of the above-written obligation is such, that, if the said *G. Rutherford, Henry Boag, and R. Spearman the younger*" (the defendant), "or either or any of them, their or either or any of their executors or administrators, or any person or persons on their behalf, do and shall well and truly pay or cause to be paid unto the said *W. S. Batson, J. Wilson, and J. Langhorn*, and all and every other person or persons who shall or may become partner or partners with them in the said banking business, or any or either of them (or other the firm of the said house for the time being), and their and each and every of their executors and administrators, all and every such sum and sums of money, not exceeding the sum of 200*l.* as aforesaid, as the said *W. S. Batson, J. Wilson, and J. Langhorn*, or any or either of them, or any future partner or partners of the said firm, or other the firm of the house for the time being, shall advance and pay, or be liable to advance and pay, for or on account of their accepting or paying any bill or bills of exchange, drafts, notes, or other securities or engagements whatsoever, which he the

said

1898.

BATSON
against
SPEARMAN.

1838.

BATSON
against
SPERMAN.

said *G. Rutherford* shall from time to time draw upon, or desire or request to be paid by, them, or make payable at their banking house, or which shall be discounted or paid, or credited in advance by them, for the said *G. Rutherford*, and also all and every other sum and sums of money which they the said *W. S. Batson, J. Wilson, and J. Langhorn*, or any or either of them, or other the firm of the house for the time being, shall have laid out, paid, or advanced, or become in anywise liable to advance or pay, to any person or persons whomsoever, to or for or on the credit of the said *G. Rutherford*, or otherwise on his account, together with such lawful charges and allowances for advancing and paying such bill or bills, drafts, notes, securities, and engagements, as are usually charged by bankers in such and the like cases, and interest after the rate of 5*l.* per cent. per annum for such sums as they shall be in advance or in balance against the said *G. Rutherford*, *within three calendar months after receiving notice to pay and satisfy* such sum and sums of money, or the interest so to accrue due as aforesaid, then the above-written obligation shall be null and void, or else shall be and remain in full force and entire."

Plea. Payment to plaintiffs by the said *G. Rutherford* according to the form and effect of the condition.

Replication. That, after making the said writing obligatory, plaintiffs advanced and paid divers large sums amounting to 200*l.* for and on account of paying divers bills, notes, and other securities which the said *G. Rutherford* had drawn on plaintiffs, and for and on account of paying other bills, &c., made payable by the said *G. Rutherford* at plaintiffs' banking house: That a large sum, to wit 200*l.*, for and on account of the
moneys

moneys so advanced and paid by plaintiffs, and of interest thereon after the rate mentioned in the condition, was, at the time of giving the notice thereafter mentioned, due from the said *G. Rutherford*, "whereof the defendant, three calendar months before the commencement of this suit, to wit on &c., had and received notice." And the replication averred, nonpayment by the defendant or his co-obligors. Verification.

Rejoinder. That, after the making of the writing obligatory, plaintiffs advanced and paid divers sums for and on account of paying divers bills, notes, and other securities, which the said *G. Rutherford* then drew on plaintiffs, and for and on account of paying divers other bills, &c., which the said *G. Rutherford* then made payable at the banking house of plaintiffs; that the last-mentioned sums so paid by plaintiffs amounted to 200*l.*; that the said *G. Rutherford*, according to the condition of the said writing obligatory, repaid to plaintiffs the said last-mentioned sums to the amount of 200*l.*; and that the sums of money, alleged in the replication to have been advanced and paid by plaintiffs, were paid after the said sums mentioned in the rejoinder had been so advanced and paid by plaintiffs, and also after the same had been so repaid by the said *G. Rutherford* as aforesaid. Verification. General demurrer.

W. H. Watson, for the plaintiff. This is a continuing security; *Williams v. Rawlinson* (a). [Lord Denman C. J. We are satisfied this is a continuing guaranty. There is no doubt.]

(a) 3 Bing. 71. S. C. Ry. & Moo. 233.

Wightman,

1838.

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BATSON
against
SPRAXMAN.

1838.

BATSON
against
SPEARMAN.

Wightman, contra. The replication is bad. The liability of the defendant is only a collateral one, as surety for *Rutherford*: there ought therefore to be a distinct averment of a request to pay; *Birks v. Trippet* (a), and note (2) to that case (b). Even the general averment of *licet sæpius requisitus* is not inserted here; nor, if it were, would it be sufficient; *Bach v. Owen* (c). [*Patteson J.* Would not that rather be matter for special demurrer?] It is substance, and part of the very terms of the contract. The condition is that the obligors shall pay "within three calendar months after receiving notice to pay." Here there is neither notice to pay, nor a request to pay. The defendant has a right to require compliance with these terms before a security is enforced against him, on the face of which he appears to be a mere surety.

W. H. Watson, in reply. This is, at most, only ground of special demurrer. It is averred that the defendant received notice that the money was due from the principal. The money being in fact due, and notice having been given to the defendant, the plaintiff has done all that, on a reasonable construction of the condition, can be required of him; the defendant stipulates for notice, and not for any request.

Per Curiam (d). The notice alleged is only notice that *Rutherford* was in arrear; this would be satisfied by shewing that an account had, from time to time, been made out and sent, without shewing any request to settle it, or to pay (d).

(a) 1 *Saund.* 32.(b) 1 *Wms. Saund.* 33 a.(c) 5 *T. R.* 409. per *Buller J.* But see *Bowdell v. Parsons*, 10 *East*, 359.; *Radford v. Smith*, 8 *M. & W.* 254. 258.(d) Lord *Denman C. J.*, *Patteson*, *Williams*, and *Coleridge Js.*

W. H. Watson

W. H. Watson then applied for leave to amend, which was granted.

1838.

S.

Leave for plaintiff to amend.

BATSON
against
SPEARMAN.

PEARSON, Assignee of GRAHAM, a Bankrupt, &c.,
against ROGERS, GRAHAM, and PENN.

Saturday,
December 1st.

TROVER by the assignee of *James Graham*, a bankrupt, for goods the property of plaintiff as such assignee, laying a conversion by the three defendants.

Trover by assignee of bankrupt for goods of the plaintiff as assignee, laying a conversion by three defendants, *G. R.*, and *P.*

Plea, by two of the defendants, *Rogers* and *Penn.* That after *Graham* became a bankrupt, and more than two calendar months before the date and issuing of the fiat, and before the grievances complained of, plaintiff, as assignee of *Graham* (to wit, by reason of the relation of his, the plaintiff's, title, as such assignee to the time of the bankruptcy, though not then appointed to be assignee), was the owner of, and entitled to, the possession of the goods as of his property as such assignee; and the said *Graham* was then (subject only to such title of the plaintiff as assignee by relation) possessed of, and entitled to, the same goods; and thereupon, after the bankruptcy of *Graham*, and more than two calendar months before the date and issuing of the

Plea by defendants *R.* and *P.*, that after the bankruptcy, and two calendar months before the fiat, the plaintiff, as assignee, to wit, by the relation of his title to the act of bankruptcy, though not then appointed assignee, was owner, and entitled to the possession, of the goods, and the bankrupt was possessed

of them subject to such title of the plaintiff; that two calendar months before the fiat, the defendant *R.* bonâ fide bought of the bankrupt, who then bonâ fide sold and delivered to *R.*, the said goods at a reasonable price, and that, at the time of the sale, neither of the defendants had notice of any prior act of bankruptcy; whereby *R.* became possessed of the goods as of his own property, and that he, being so possessed, and *P.*, as his servant, converted them; which is the same grievance &c., without this, that at the time of the said conversion the goods were the property of the plaintiff as assignee. Conclusion to the country.

Held, on special demurrer to the plea, that the introductory part of it confessed and avoided the declaration, and the traverse was therefore idle.

Quære, whether the plaintiff might have treated the traverse as immaterial, and pleaded over?

fiat,

1838.

PEARSON
against
ROGERS.

fiat, while plaintiff was such owner and so entitled, and *Graham* so possessed and entitled, defendant *Rogers* bonâ fide bought, at a reasonable price, of the said *Graham*, and *Graham* then bonâ fide sold and delivered to defendant *Rogers*, at such price, the said goods; and that at the time of the said purchase, sale, and delivery, defendants had not, nor had either of them, notice of any prior act of bankruptcy by *Graham*; whereupon and whereby defendant *Rogers* became possessed of the goods as of his own property, and, being so possessed, he in his own right, and defendant *Penn* as his servant, converted them &c., which is the same grievance &c., "without this, that at the time of the said conversion, the said goods or any of them were the property of the plaintiff as assignee as aforesaid, or of right belonged or appertained to him as assignee as aforesaid." Conclusion to the country.

Demurrer, assigning (inter alia) the following causes. That the plea in the inducement confessed a property in plaintiff as assignee, and then confessed a conversion by the purchase and sale to *Rogers*, and alleged matter in supposed avoidance of such conversion which the plaintiff had no opportunity of traversing or replying to. That the plea ought to have concluded with a verification. That the plea, after confessing a conversion, and alleging matter in supposed avoidance, went on to allege a subsequent conversion, being the same mentioned in the declaration, and concluded with a traverse, that, at the time of the last-mentioned conversion, the goods were the property of plaintiff as assignee. That the plea was double, because two conversions were shewn therein, and distinct answers were given to each. That it contained several distinct matters of defence, and that
the

the matters stated in the inducement were inconsistent with the traverse at the end. That it ought not to have concluded with a traverse; and that the traverse was of a supposed conversion not alleged in the declaration, and raised an immaterial issue. That the real question was thereby evaded or not directly or formally raised, and the issue was attempted to be mixed up with a supposed subsequent conversion altogether beside the real question to be tried. That defendants, by tendering an issue, precluded plaintiff from new assigning, if necessary. That whereas the declaration alleged a joint conversion by three defendants, the plea confessed, and attempted to justify, a conversion by two of them only, and averred the conversion so confessed to be the same as that mentioned in the declaration, although the two were manifestly different and inconsistent. That the inducement was in the nature of a confession and avoidance of plaintiff's title, and the plea therefore ought to have concluded with a verification, and not to the country; and that the traverse was a negative pregnant, implying a denial, as well of the plaintiff's character as assignee, as of his property, as such assignee.

Wightman, for the plaintiff. The plea is bad for the reasons specified in the demurrer. It should conclude with a verification, and not with a special traverse; for the facts, stated in the preceding part of it, are, if true, an answer to the action, inasmuch as they confess the property to have been in the plaintiff by relation, but shew a change in it by a bonâ fide sale within sect. 81 of stat. 6 G. 4. c. 16. (a); the plaintiff should therefore have an

1838.

 PEARSON
 against
 ROGERS.

(a) See now stat. 2 & 3 Vict. c. 29.

opportunity

1838.

PEARSON
against
ROGERS.

opportunity of traversing those facts. The sale to *Rogers* was a conversion, but the plea goes on to state a subsequent conversion by the two defendants, and then avers that the latter is the conversion complained of. The defendant has no right thus to impose a conversion on the plaintiff; yet, if the traverse is material and rightly taken, the plaintiff must join issue on it, and cannot reply or new assign any other conversion than the one alleged by the defendant. The facts stated are no defence unless they admit that the property was in the plaintiff at the time of the conversion, yet they conclude with a denial of the property. It is a rule that where the plea confesses and avoids, a special traverse is bad. *Helyar's Case* (a), and others cited in note (5) to *Salmon v. Smith* (b).

Cresswell, contra. The traverse is good and material, and, if so, it must conclude to the country. *Reg. Gen. Hil. 4 W. 4.* and *General Rules and Regulations*, sects. 10, 13 (c). The plea substantially admits a conversion, but denies the property. A simple denial of the property would have failed, for, according to *Pearson v. Graham* (d), it should seem that there was a property in the assignee by relation at the time of the sale; so that, if the defendant had merely traversed the property, the plaintiff would have relied on the sale as a conversion, and would have succeeded upon that issue. Here the inducement states special circumstances consistent with the traverse, and points out the conversion which it professes to justify. It is not true that two conversions are justified in the plea. The first is a conversion by

(a) 6 Rep. 24 b.

(b) 1 Wms. Saund. 307 c.

(c) 5 B. & Ad. v. vi.

(d) 6 A. & E. 899, 900.

Rogers

Rogers alone, viz. the sale and delivery to him; this is not a *joint* conversion, and is therefore not the conversion complained of. The plea admits a property in the plaintiff by relation until the sale to *Rogers*; after the property has passed to *Rogers* the plea admits a joint conversion, and then concludes, as it ought, with a special traverse of the plaintiff's property. Under that traverse the plaintiff must shew property at the time of the conversion. It is not only the right, but the duty, of the defendant to specify the conversion which he assumes to be intended by the declaration, and which he intends to justify.

But, supposing the traverse to be bad, the plaintiff is not in a condition to insist upon this objection without specially assigning it as ground of demurrer: it is not enough to say that the plea "ought not to have concluded with a traverse," but it should be shewn why the traverse is bad. The traverse is, at most, only immaterial, and the plaintiff might have replied over, or taken issue on the inducement; nor is there any reason why he should not have denied the identity of the conversion by new assigning another than the one justified by the plea. Suppose, however, the plaintiff had joined issue on the traverse, all the circumstances stated in the inducement would have been inquired into at the trial: In *Craven v. Sanderson* (a), where it had been held at Nisi Prius that by taking issue on a special traverse the matters alleged by way of inducement were admitted, this Court ruled differently, and granted a new trial upon that ground.

As to the supposed inconsistency of justifying a conversion by two defendants, when the declaration imputes

1838.

 PEARSON
against
ROGERS.

(a) 4 A. & E. 666.

1838.

PEARSON
against
ROGERS.

a joint conversion by three, the defendants who have pleaded separately need only plead a justification sufficient for themselves.

With respect to the last cause of demurrer, it is not true that the traverse involves any denial of the plaintiff's character as assignee, which is clearly admitted on these pleadings; *Reg. Gen. Hil. 4 W. 4. General Rules and Regulations, s. 21 (a)*.

Wightman, in reply. The objection is, not that the traverse concludes to the country, but that there is any traverse at all; the case is, therefore, not within the new rules. The defendant should have confessed the property of the plaintiff, and not the conversion; whereas he confesses the conversion, and then denies the property. If the traverse were omitted, the plea would be a good defence under sect. 81 of stat. 6 G. 4. c. 16. The case is analogous to that of a sale of goods in market overt, which should be pleaded without a traverse of the property; *Com. Dig. Pleader, G. 5. Stancliffe v. Hardwick (b)* shews that it is a question of conversion, and not of property, and the plea should conclude with a verification. In effect, the plea admits the title of the plaintiff by alleging that a certain sort of property vested in him by relation.

Cur. adv. vult.

Lord DENMAN C. J. now delivered the judgment of the Court.

This was a demurrer to the plea in an action of trover at the suit of the assignee of a bankrupt. Many grounds of demurrer were assigned, but the principal

(a) 5 B. & Ad. vii.

(b) 2 C. M. & R. 1. S. C. 5 Tyr. 551.

ground,

ground, into which, indeed, all the others may be resolved, was, that a special traverse was taken by the plea after the allegation of matter professing to be inducement, but which amounted, in truth, to confession and avoidance. No doubt can be entertained but that this ground of demurrer is fatal, if it be established to exist. See the cases collected, *Salmon v. Smith*, note (5) (a), and *Bennet v. Filkins*, note 2. (b). The law with respect to special traverses is well stated in *Stephen on Pleading*, 205. et seq.

Upon attentively considering this plea we are satisfied that the introductory part of it does confess and avoid the declaration, and therefore that the traverse is idle, and the plea bad. The declaration charges a joint conversion by the defendants. The plea admits the property in the goods to have been in the plaintiff by operation of law, but alleges a bonâ fide purchase of it by one of the defendants more than two months before the issuing of the fiat in bankruptcy without notice of an act of bankruptcy; it then alleges the possession of the goods by that defendant, and the joint conversion by both. This is a direct confession of a conversion, and an avoidance of it by shewing that it was a rightful conversion by reason of the bonâ fide purchase.

It may be very doubtful whether the plaintiff could have treated the traverse of the goods being the property of the plaintiff at the time of the conversion, as an immaterial traverse, and pleaded over to the introductory matter; a power which, we may observe, was not given by the Rule, Hilary term, 4 W. 4. (c), but only preserved by it. It is sufficient to say that he was not bound so

1898.

 PRISON
 against
 ROGERS.

(a) 1 Wms. Sound. 207 c.

(b) 1 Wms. Sound. 22.

(c) Reg. Gen. Hil. 4 W. 4. General Rules and Regulations, s. 13.

1838.

PEARSON
against
ROGERS.

to treat it; and it is obvious that if he had, the question as to the traverse being immaterial, or not, must have been raised by a demurrer on the part of the defendants.

Judgment must be for the plaintiff.

Leave was given to the defendants to amend; but, it being afterwards represented to the Court by *Wightman* that there had been a trial at the assizes against the defendant *A. Graham (a)*, and that contingent damages had been at the same time assessed against the other two defendants, the Court withdrew the leave to amend, and gave

S.

Judgment for the plaintiff.

(a) See *Pearson v. Graham*, 6 A. & B. 899.

Saturday,
December 1st.

The QUEEN against The Inhabitants of SOMERBY.

A pauper, apprenticed to a carpenter in parish *S.*, being disabled by an accident from working in his business, was taken by his master to his (the apprentice's) father's house in parish *M.* for the benefit of surgical attendance. He resided there forty days, and during such residence was employed by his master to sell tickets in a lottery in which the prizes were articles manufactured by the master, and was allowed by him 1s. on each ticket sold, in aid of his maintenance: Held, that he gained a settlement in *M.*, although the sale of such tickets was illegal.

ON appeal against an order of justices removing *John Dixon* from the parish or township of *Melton Mowbray* in *Leicestershire*, to the parish of *Somerby* in the same county, the sessions confirmed the order, subject to the opinion of this Court on the following case.

The pauper, *John Dixon*, was by indenture, dated *September 21st*, 1805, bound apprentice to *William Lane*, of *Somerby*, carpenter and joiner, from the 5th day of the same month, for the term of seven years. The indenture contained covenants that the pauper should do all lawful commands of his master, and that his master should find him board, lodging, and washing

during

during the term. The pauper served six years and two months in *Somerby* under this indenture, when he met with an accident, and became unable to work. He was, in consequence, taken by his master, on the morning following the accident, to his father's house in *Melton Mowbray* (which was six miles from *Somerby*) for the benefit of a surgeon's attendance, and he slept at his father's house from that time until the cancellation after mentioned, being a period of more than seventy days. His master called upon him at his father's house from time to time, to see how he was; and during that time, and whilst he was incapacitated from his ordinary employment under the indenture, his master asked him to carry out, and sell in the villages round about *Melton Mowbray*, lottery tickets, by which the holders would be entitled to draw in a lottery, where the prizes were articles manufactured by the master in his trade. This the pauper consented to do, and did, until the cancellation after mentioned. As a compensation for this service, the pauper received 1s. on the sale of each ticket, which his master observed would help to maintain him. The master also, on first taking the pauper to *Melton Mowbray*, promised to pay the surgeon his bill, but, he failing to do so, the pauper paid it himself. On the 1st *February* 1812 the pauper's father bought out the pauper's time for two guineas, which he paid to the master. His indenture was thereupon cancelled, and the master received such tickets as remained unsold.

The questions for the opinion of the Court were, whether, under the circumstances stated in the case, there was either maintenance of the apprentice by the master in *Melton Mowbray* under the indenture, or

1838.

—
The QUEEN
against
The Inhabit-
ants of
SOMERBY.

1898.

THE QUEEN
against
The Inhabit-
ants of
SOMERSET.

service by the apprentice in *Melton Mowbray* under it. If the Court should be of opinion that there was either such maintenance or such service, the order of sessions was to be quashed; if otherwise, to be confirmed.

Sir *W. W. Follett*, *Burnaby*, and *Goldsmid*, in support of the order of sessions. There was neither maintenance nor service under the indenture. Any assistance the pauper may have received from the sale of lottery tickets was unconnected with his service as apprentice, and was the subject of a distinct contract. The surgeon's bill was not paid by the master, nor was he in fact liable to pay it. The residence at *Melton Mowbray* should have been for the purposes of the apprenticeship, and in consequence of it; *Rex v. Ilkeston* (a). The cases of *Rex v. Stratford-upon-Avon* (b) and *Rex v. Banbury* (c) will be relied on; those cases depend on *Rex v. Charles* (d), but there the master and apprentice were both resident in the same parish. [*Williams J.* How is the case distinguishable from *Rex v. Stratford-upon-Avon* (b)? In that case, as in this, the pauper was resident in a different parish on account of sickness, and was employed by the master to go errands, and do other work for him.] Here the only employment of the pauper in *Melton Mowbray* was not only unconnected with the object of the apprenticeship, but was also an illegal occupation. There are several acts of parliament which make the sale of such lottery tickets illegal (e). They are declared by the legislature to be a nuisance. [*Lord Denman C. J.*

(a) 4 B. & C. 64.

(b) 11 East, 176.

(c) 3 B. & Ad. 706.

(d) Bur. S. C. 706.

(e) See 10 & 11 W. 3. c. 17.; 9 Ann. c. 6.; 8 G. 1. c. 2.; 12 G. 2. c. 28.; 42 G. 3. c. 119.

Suppose

Suppose the master had employed his apprentice to do work for him on the highway under circumstances that occasioned a nuisance, would he gain no settlement?] The service performed would give no settlement unless the master could have compelled him to do it; otherwise he might gain it by being employed to make signals in aid of smugglers. As to the maintenance derived from the sale of the tickets, it was not only a distinct contract, but was also in the nature of a bribe to do an illegal act.

J. Hildyard and *G. T. White*, *contra*, were stopped by the Court.

LORD DENMAN C. J. The relation of apprentice continued during the residence of the pauper in *Melton Mowbray*. As to the alleged illegality of his occupation there, it would be hard, under such circumstances, to deprive him of his right of settlement, if he only obeyed his master's orders. If, indeed, the master and his apprentice had conspired to do unlawful acts, the case might have been different, and perhaps no settlement might then have been gained.

PATTESON, WILLIAMS, and COLERIDGE Js. concurred.
S.

Order quashed.

1838.

—
The QUEEN
against
The Inhabit-
ants of
SOMERSET.

1898.

Saturday,
December 1st.

SHIPTON *against* THORNTON.

1. Where goods are shipped under a bill of lading in a general ship, which is prevented from completing the voyage in consequence of damage occasioned by tempest, *quere*, whether the master is bound, if he has an opportunity, to forward the goods by some other conveyance to the place of destination.

2. At any rate, he is at liberty to do so, by a conveyance equally cheap, if he think fit; and, if the goods arrive at the place of destination by

such other conveyance, he is entitled, on the freighter obtaining the goods, to the whole freight originally contracted for; though the freighter was named as consignee in the original bill of lading, and the bill of lading under which the goods are shipped by the second conveyance makes another party consignee; and though, by the second conveyance, the goods are carried for less than the freight originally contracted for.

3. Defendant was interested solely in certain goods conveyed by the ship *S.*, and was also interested jointly with his partners, who with him formed the firm of *T.* and *W.*, in other goods also sent by the ship *S.* He signed a promise to make certain payments in respect of freight on board the *S.*, not stating upon which goods, beginning, "I hereby engage to pay," but signed with the style of *T.* and *W.* In an action against him solely, for the freight of his own goods: Held, that such engagement was evidence of a several contract by him, and, for the purpose of the action, required only one stamp.

4. A witness called by plaintiff stated, on the voir dire, that he had, as agent for plaintiff, instructed an attorney, *E.*, to commence the suit: that *E.* had carried on the suit to a certain stage, and had died; that witness had not told *E.* that he was to look to plaintiff only for costs; that no demand of costs had been made upon himself; and that he had not been released. It did not appear under what circumstances the papers had been handed over to the present attorney, nor whether the costs of *E.* had been discharged. Held, that these facts did not shew an interest sufficient to disqualify the witness.

ASSUMPSIT. The first count of the declaration (of *Trinity* term, 9 G. 4.) stated that, whereas, before the making of the promise &c., plaintiff was master and owner of the ship *James Scott*, in which, before the making of the said promise, divers goods, to wit &c., had been shipped, to be carried therein, on freight, from *Singapore* in the *East Indies* to *London*, consigned to defendant; and whereas, before the making of the said promise, the said ship, in the course of the voyage from *Singapore* to *London*, by and through the perils of the sea and stormy weather &c., was compelled to go to *Batavia* in the island of *Java*, at which place the said ship afterwards, and before the making of the said promise, arrived in a state much damaged; and thereupon and there, to wit at *Batavia* aforesaid, *it became and was necessary* to unload the said goods, wares, &c., out of the said ship, and to put and

load

load such part of the said goods as was not damaged by the sea-water or otherwise, amounting to divers, to wit &c. (stating quantity of goods), into certain other ships called *The Mountaineer* and *The Sesostris*, for the purpose of carrying the said last-mentioned goods to *London*; and the same were accordingly unloaded, and put and loaded into and on board of *The Mountaineer* and *The Sesostris*, for the purpose aforesaid, by means and in consequence whereof a *difference in the amount of the freight* of the said last-mentioned goods arose, on account of their being carried by *The Mountaineer* and *The Sesostris* instead of *The James Scott*, of all which &c. (notice to defendant, to wit on 14th *October* 1826, at *London*); and thereupon defendant, afterwards, to wit on the same day &c., in consideration of the premises, and also in consideration of the delivery of the said last-mentioned goods to defendant, undertook and then faithfully *promised plaintiff to pay to him the difference in the amount of the freight between The Mountaineer and The Sesostris and The James Scott*, when the same should be ascertained; averment, that the difference in the amount of the freight between &c. was afterwards, to wit on 2d *April* 1828, at &c., ascertained, and amounted to a large &c., to wit 600*l.*, whereof &c. (notice to defendant). The second count stated the loading of the goods on board *The James Scott*, whereof plaintiff was master and owner, consigned and to be carried as in the first count; that it became necessary to unload and reload (as in the first count, but without stating where or why); that a difference of freight arose, which defendant promised to pay, in consideration of the premises (not adding of the delivery), and which amounted to 600*l.*, of which defendant had notice. The third

count

1838.

 SMITTON
 against
 THORNTON.

1838.

SHURTON
against
THORNTON.

count substantially resembled the first, but related merely to *The James Scott* and *Mountaineer*. The fourth count substantially resembled the second, but related merely to *The James Scott* and *Sesostris*. Fifth count, indebitatus assumpsit for freight from *Singapore* to *London*. Sixth count, quantum meruit on the same. Seventh, eighth, and ninth counts, for money lent, money paid, and money had and received. Tenth count, on an account stated.

Plea, Non assumpsit.

On the trial before *Coleridge J.* at the sittings in *London* after *Trinity* term, 1836, a witness was tendered for the plaintiff, named *Ellwand*, who stated, on the voir dire, that he had, as plaintiff's agent, employed an attorney named *Edis*, who had commenced the action; that *Edis* had been dead some time, and that there was a new attorney; that no demand had been made on the witness for costs; that he had not been released; that he had not told *Edis* that he was to look to the plaintiff, and not the witness, for costs. It did not appear upon what, if any, arrangement as to bygone costs the papers had been handed to the present attorney. The defendant's counsel contended that *Ellwand* was incompetent, as being liable in respect of these costs to *Edis's* representatives. The learned Judge admitted the witness.

It appeared that *The James Scott* was a general ship, of which the plaintiff was owner and master, and that, she being at *Singapore*, certain goods were, on behalf of defendant, their sole owner, shipped on board of her, under bills of lading, according to which the goods were to be delivered to defendant at *London*. The defendant was also interested in certain other goods, as a partner in the firm of *Thornton and West*, to which these last belonged:

belonged: these goods were shipped at the same time with the others on board *The James Scott*, under similar bills of lading. *The James Scott* sailed from *Singapore* with the goods on board; but, having suffered much injury from tempest, she put into *Batavia* for repair. The plaintiff, very shortly after arriving at *Batavia*, shipped some of both sets of goods on board a ship called *The Mountaineer*, and the remainder of such of the goods belonging solely to plaintiff as were fit to be forwarded, on board another ship, called *The Sesostri*, which two ships then lay at *Batavia*, bound for *London*. Upon these shipments, fresh bills of lading were made out, according to which all the goods were to be delivered to the witness *Ellwand* in *London*. Evidence was given to shew the necessity of the transshipment. The freight, both of the goods sent by *The Sesostri* and of those sent by *The Mountaineer*, was less than the freight would have been respectively of the same goods from *Singapore* to *London* by *The James Scott*, according to the original bill of lading. *The Sesostri* and *The Mountaineer* reached *London*; and *Ellwand* took possession of all the goods. The defendant claimed them of *Ellwand*, producing the bills of lading of *The James Scott*. *Ellwand* delivered up the goods to the defendant, by indorsing the bills of lading of *The Sesostri* and *The Mountaineer*, on receiving from him the freight by those two ships. The plaintiff was also paid the freight by *The James Scott* to *Singapore*, at the rate agreed upon. But he claimed from the defendant the sum by which the freight on board *The James Scott* from *Singapore* at the stipulated rate exceeded that by *The Mountaineer* and *The Sesostri*. The plaintiff's counsel offered in evidence the following document,

which

1838.

SHEPTON
against
THORNTON.

1838.

SMITTON
against
THORNTON.

which was written by the defendant, and handed by him to *Ellwand* when the goods were delivered by *Ellwand* to him.

“ Mr. *W. Ellwand*.

“ *London, 14th October 1826.*

“ Dear Sir,

“ I hereby engage to pay you the difference in amount of freight between *The Mountaineer* and *The James Scott*, when the same shall have been ascertained. I am, &c.,

“ *R. and R. Thornton and West.*”

The paper had a single agreement stamp. *Ellwand* stated that, when he delivered up the goods, he claimed the difference of freight on behalf of plaintiff; that defendant agreed to pay it, but signed the memorandum, inasmuch as the amount was not then ascertained. The defendant's counsel objected to the admission of this document, on the grounds, first, that the contract related only to the goods belonging to *Thornton* and *West*; and, secondly, that, if it related also to the goods of the defendant solely, there should have been two stamps. They contended further that, independently of special contract, the defendant was not liable to the difference of freight.

The learned Judge admitted the document, and directed the jury to find for the plaintiff, to the amount of the difference of freight, if they thought that the transshipment was necessary; and he reserved leave to move for a nonsuit. Verdict for the plaintiff. In *Michaelmas* term, 1836, *Cresswell* obtained a rule nisi for a nonsuit or a new trial. In *Hilary* term last (*a*),

(a) January 26th, 1838. Before Lord Denman C. J., *Littledale*, *Williams*, and *Coleridge* Js.

Thesiger and *Cleasby* shewed cause. First, as to the competency of *Ellwand*. It lies on the party objecting to shew a disqualification: and the Court will insist the more strictly on this where the interest at any rate is so slight, arising only from the expense at the commencement of the cause, which might easily have been released. The employment of *Edis* was merely by *Ellwand* in the character of the plaintiff's agent: that created no personal liability *primâ facie*. It was not necessary that *Ellwand* should tell *Edis* that he was to look only to the plaintiff. The liability rested primarily on the principal, without any such express intimation. Besides, the witness, if he were made to pay these costs, might recover them from his principal, the plaintiff, and therefore he is indifferent. "It is not sufficient to suggest, or even to shew a probability, or excite a suspicion, that the witness stands under circumstances which tempt him to represent the fact one way rather than the other; it is incumbent upon him to shew it with certainty:" 1 *Starkie on Evidence*, 122. note (z), (2d ed.). [As to this they were stopped by the Court.] Secondly, one stamp on the agreement of 14th October 1826 was sufficient. In *Powell v. Edmunds* (a) there were separate agreements by different parties on the same paper: a stamp was impressed on that part of the paper on which one agreement was written; and the stamp was also connected with that part by a receipt of the officer of the stamps acknowledging payment of the penalty by the agent of the party to that agreement. That, however, does not shew that, where agreements cannot be so distinguished, the whole document is inadmissible;

1838.

 SHIPTON
 against
 THORNTON.
(a) 12 *East*, 6.

1838.

SHIPTON
against
THORNTON.

nor does it apply at all to a case where there are, not distinct agreements, but, as here, a single agreement into which several parties enter. In *Doc, lessee of Copley, v. Day* (a) the Court admitted slight evidence, as the position of the stamp, to shew to which of several contracts the stamp was referable. The defendant here has an interest in all the goods to which the agreement relates, and might have been sued in respect of any, though, as to some, he might have pleaded in abatement. This makes the present a stronger case than *Davis v. Williams* (b), *Baker v. Jardine* (c), and *Allen v. Morrison* (d), where it was held that one stamp was sufficient. [*Cole-ridge J.* The defendant bound his partner as to the partnership goods, but not as to the goods which belonged to the defendant solely. The parties and the subject-matters are both so far distinct.] The stamp would have been sufficient for the purposes of an action against *Thornton and West*; and, if so, the two cannot be bound more than the one. The stamp acts require a stamp on an "agreement;" that is, on the document. There is no distinction made as to the way in which different parties become implicated. If the parties had been all present together, and the goods lying before them, and had been told that, unless they agreed to the payment, the goods should not be delivered to them, their agreement to do so would constitute but one "agreement," in the sense of the stamp laws. It is a single transaction as to the defendant. *Re v. Louth* (e), *Bowen v. Ashley* (g), *Stead v. Liddard* (h), illustrate this:

(a) 18 *East*, 241.(b) 13 *East*, 232.(c) Note (b) to *Davis v. Williams*, 13 *East*, 235.(d) 8 *B. & C.* 565.(e) 8 *B. & C.* 247.(g) 1 *New R.* 274.(h) 1 *Bing.* 196.

in *Stead v. Liddard* (a) there were, in fact, distinct agreements. But it will be found that, where there is a community of purpose, and a single transaction, the circumstance of there being separate interests and liabilities does not render two stamps necessary (b). The present objection, even if valid, affects only the goods sent by *The Mountaineer*, there being no partnership goods in *The Sesostriis*. Thirdly, the agreement bound the defendant singly, as well as the two. In *Hall v. Smith* (c) the defendant wrote an engagement in the first person for himself and partners; and he was held liable in a several action. There *Bayley* J. said, "It is true, that he promises for himself and others, but he alone promises." [*Littledale* J. It is not said that a joint liability also was created there.] The present argument is only that the defendant is severally liable. Even if the letter were not his several contract, it would be evidence as an admission by him of his antecedent liability. It is not necessary to inquire whether the use of the word "I" would prevent the instrument from being available against the two. Fourthly, the defendant is liable, independently of the agreement. As to the freight to *Java* there can be no dispute; and, as to the rest of the voyage, the plaintiff was not bound to shew that the transhipment was necessary. There was a single contract for the conveyance of the goods; and the defendant accepted them, and, having thereby (as must be presumed) satisfied himself of the facts, ratified what had been done as a performance of the contract. He claimed under the original bill of lading of *The James*

1838.

 SMITHON
 against
 THORNTON.
(a) 1 *Bing.* 196.(b) On this point see *Ramsbottom v. Davis*, 4 *Mec. & W.* 584.(c) 1 *B. & C.* 407.

Scott.

1838.

SHIPTON
against
THORNTON.

Scott. [Coleridge J. If the goods had been transhipped unnecessarily, the owner could obtain them only by claiming under the original bill of lading: is that, therefore, an admission of the necessity?] No objection was made. In *Cook v. Jennings* (a) Lawrence J. says, "When a ship is driven on shore, it is the duty of the master either to repair his ship or to procure another, and having performed the voyage he is then entitled to his freight: but he is not entitled to the whole freight unless he perform the whole voyage, except in cases where the owner of the goods prevents him; nor is he entitled pro rata unless under a new agreement." At all events, the jury found the fact of the necessity, and there was evidence on which they might do this. [The argument on the evidence is omitted.] Then who is to have the profit arising from the transhipment? The owner of the goods has them carried by the instrumentality of the party with whom he contracted for the carriage at a fixed price. In *Hunter v. Prinsep* (b) Lord Ellenborough said, "If the ship be disabled from completing her voyage, the shipowner may still entitle himself to the whole freight, by forwarding the goods by some other means to the place of destination." In *Lutwidge v. Grey* (c) and *Luke v. Lyde* (d) it was held that the master, if the ship be disabled without his fault, entitles himself to the whole freight by hiring another ship which conveys the goods to the port of delivery, or by attempting to do so, if he be prevented by the owner of the goods. In *Luke v. Lyde* (d) the original ship was a general ship, as here; so that no distinction arises

(a) 7 T. R. 381.

(b) 10 East, 378. See p. 394.

(c) In *Dom. Proc. Abbott on Shipping*, 307, (5th ed.).

(d) 2 Bur. 882. S. C. 1 W. Bl. 190.

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from that circumstance; nor could there be any, on principle. Any profit, therefore, made by a diminution of the expense of the second conveyance goes to the master of the ship, just as any loss by an increase of expense would have fallen upon him. The claim of the master is on the original contract: there is no occasion, between him and the owner of the goods, for any new bills of lading while the former bills of lading subsist, as was said by the Judge of the Court of Admiralty in *Lutwidge v. Grey* (a). And this answers the difficulty which, as was suggested from the bench, might be supposed to arise from the defendant's inability to obtain his goods without recourse to the original bill of lading. The doctrine laid down in *Abbott on Shipping* (b) is, "The apportionment of freight usually happens, when the ship by reason of any disaster goes into a port short of the place of destination, and is unable to prosecute and complete the voyage. In this case we have already seen that the master may, if he will and can do so, hire another ship to convey the goods, and so entitle himself to his whole freight." It was urged, for the defendant, that the plaintiff was not entitled to tranship, because the insurance was thereby lost; but *Plantamour v. Staples* (c) shews that, where the transhipment is necessary, the insurance continues.

Cresswell, contra. First, as to *Ellwand's* competency. *Edis* might have recovered from him the expenses attending the early stages of the suit. An agent employ-

(a) In *Dom. Proc. Abbott on Shipping*, 307. (5th ed.).

(b) Page 303.; and see *Ibid.* p. 240.

(c) 1 *Marsh. Ins.* 164. (3d ed.). S. C. note (a) to *Mitchell v. Edie*, 1 T. R. 611.

1838.

 SHIPTON
 against
 THORNTON.

1838.

SMITH
against
THORNTON.

ing an attorney is liable to the costs, unless he expressly state that the attorney is to look to the principal, which is here negatived. It is not enough that he is known to be agent. Thus in *Burrell v. Jones* (a) the defendants undertook to pay rent "as solicitors to the assignees;" yet they were held personally liable. *Iveson v. Conington* (b) is also an authority for the defendant on this point. It is said that the witness might recover over; but the same answer might have been given in all the cases in which parties who have guaranteed the costs have been held incompetent. Secondly, as to the stamp on the document of 14th October 1826. *Powell v. Edmunds* (c) and *Doe, lessee of Copley, v. Day* (d) shew that evidence was necessary to connect the stamp with the agreement by the defendant alone, which the document is put in to establish. In *Davis v. Williams* (e) there was a subscription to a common fund: here the goods, to which the two agreements relate, are distinct. In *Baker v. Jardine* (g) the subject-matter of the agreement, being one fund in which the parties who made the assignment had each a share, was single. *Stead v. Liddard* (h) was merely a case of principal and surety to one contract. Thirdly, the agreement did not bind the defendant as to his goods. It could not be said that the firm of *Thornton and West* were not bound. *Hall v. Smith* (i) differs from the present case: there the agreement was an original one; but here the agreements refer to contracts previously subsisting between the several parties: there the defendant signed his own

(a) 3 B. & Ald. 47. (b) 1 B. & C. 160.

(c) 12 East, 6. (d) 13 East, 241.

(e) 13 East, 232. (g) Note (b) to *Davis v. Williams*, 13 East, 235.

(h) 1 Bing. 196. (i) 1 B. & C. 407.

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name, though he added that it was for the whole; but here the signature is only that of the firm. [*Coleridge J.* Supposing the signature here to be merely for the firm: might not the plaintiff use the document as evidence of the facts necessary to make the defendant liable also individually?] That might possibly be so, if the document had been a formal admission of the facts; but it is a substantive contract. Fourthly, there is no liability upon the defendant independent of express agreement. He was not the shipper of the goods on board *The Mountaineer* or *The Sesostris*. A consignee, who is not shipper, incurs a liability by taking the goods which are sent under a bill of lading contracting for the payment, and which the captain of the ship may withhold until payment be made. Here the defendant, by taking the goods, made himself liable for the freight earned by the carriage in *The Mountaineer* and *The Sesostris*; and that he has paid. That was a distinct contract. He was not consignee in the bill of lading. It is true that he produced the original bill of lading; but that cannot make him liable for the difference between the two prices of conveyance. It is said that the transshipment was necessary, and that the defendant is therefore bound to pay the whole freight originally contracted for. The authorities cited on the other side, as to this point, shew only that, in such case, the master with whom the first contract is made may claim under that contract, if he perform the whole voyage under that contract, which he may continue by the new ship. But here the master had fresh bills of lading made out, with a new consignee: the right to demand delivery is, under the second contract, taken away from the original consignee; he therefore, if such a power be lodged in the

1838.

SHIPTON
against
THORNTON.

1838.

SHIPTON
against
THORNTON.

first captain as the plaintiff contends for, can obtain the goods only by a contract with the new master, and might be driven to the alternative of rejecting the goods or paying an increased freight for them, if the rate were higher. *Plantamour v. Staples (a)* is the only authority which has been cited to shew that the insurance is continued; but the effect of that case seems to be merely that the underwriters are liable to whatever shall ultimately appear to have been bonâ fide expended in salvage. Here the necessity for the transshipment was not shewn. The receipt of the goods by the defendant, and his signature of the agreement, prove nothing, unless full knowledge of the facts be brought home to him. (He then argued on the evidence.) [*Coleridge J.* The defendant has not paid the freight pro ratâ from *Singapore to Batavia.*] He has never contracted to do so: the original contract has not been performed.

Per Curiam. We think the facts do not shew with sufficient distinctness such an interest in *Ellwand* as to render his evidence inadmissible. We will consider the other points.

Cur. adv. vult.

Lord DENMAN C. J. now delivered the judgment of the Court.

This was an action tried at *Guildhall* by my brother *Coleridge*, in which the plaintiff recovered a verdict. Several objections were made at the trial, and renewed on motion before us.

The first of these was on the alleged incompetency

(a) 1 *Marsh. Ins.* 164. (3d ed.). S. C. note (a) to *Mitchell v. Edie*, 1 T. R. 611.

of one *Ellwand*, the principal witness on the part of the plaintiff, on the ground of his liability to the attorney. Upon the voir dire he stated as follows: "I employed Mr. *Edis*, the attorney who commenced this action, as the plaintiff's agent: he has been dead some time. There is a new attorney: I have not been released; no demand has been made on me. I did not state to him he was to look to the plaintiff and not to me." It was argued, first, that, although the witness had in truth acted as the agent of the plaintiff, yet he had rendered himself personally liable; and then that this was the ordinary case of incompetency arising from the employment of the attorney in the cause. We are of opinion, however, that the facts stated differ this from the ordinary case, and that no objection was established with sufficient clearness to warrant the rejection of the witness. It is a well founded and important rule, that the objector to a witness on the ground of interest is bound to shew the interest with certainty and clearness, and that it is not enough to give evidence of circumstances from which such interest is a probable inference, when, at the same time, other circumstances appear which make it probable, even in a less degree, that no such interest exists. For the judge, who is to decide the question, ought not to be called on to draw a conclusion of fact from conflicting evidence; as the law is to be pronounced upon the fact, there will be a difficulty in reviewing his decision as to the former, where the evidence admits of different conclusions as to the latter, because the grounds on which he has decided will be unknown. And, as objections on the score of interest are not to be favoured, the safe rule is to admit the witness, wherever there is doubt on the fact. It is

1838.

SHIPTON
against
THORNTON.

1838.

 SHIPTON
 against
 THORNTON.

then still open for the objector to urge the same circumstances to the jury, as proper to lessen the credit of the witness with them; and, according as they, who are the fit tribunal to weigh questions of doubtful fact, believe or interpret those circumstances, it is to be presumed the testimony of the witness will operate with more or less weight on their minds.

According to these principles, the answers of the witness, in order to sustain the objection, should have clearly shewn, first, that he had originally made himself liable to *Edis*; and, secondly, that, since *Edis's* death, the liability had remained unsatisfied, or had been transferred, and was continued in favour of the present attorney. Now, admitting, for the sake of the argument, that the first was to be legitimately inferred from the statement of the witness, the second was by no means made out. Until it was shewn under what arrangement the papers in the cause had passed on *Edis's* death from his representative to the present attorney, it was, at least, equally probable that they had been satisfied before they parted with them; and there was no evidence that the witness had been a party to the transfer, or in any way retained the present attorney, so as to make him liable to *him* in respect of his original employment of *Edis*. Therefore, without interfering with the general rule, we think, in the case before us, that the objector had not gone far enough to substantiate the incompetency of the witness.

This makes it necessary to consider the next objection, which arose on the reception of a document under the following circumstances. The defendant, it appeared, traded on his own account, and also as partner with one *West*, under the firm of *Thornton and West*. Goods belonging to himself individually, and also goods
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belonging to the firm, had been shipped from *Batavia* for *England* on board *The James Scott*, and bills of lading transmitted to the defendant. These goods, under some alleged necessity, had been transhipped on board *The Mountaineer* and *The Sesostri* at *Singapore*; and these vessels were consigned to the witness *Ellwand*. The defendant, in an interview with him, claimed both parcels by virtue of the bills of lading which he held by *The James Scott*. The rate of freight agreed on by that vessel was considerably higher than that which the plaintiff, her owner, had procured the goods to be conveyed home for by *The Mountaineer* and *The Sesostri*; and the witness, on his behalf, claimed that difference. The defendant, as he stated, agreed to pay that difference; but, as the amount was not then ascertained, and he was desirous of receiving the goods at once, he signed two undertakings; and, upon the faith of it, the goods were delivered to him. That upon which the present question arose, and which related to the goods on board *The Mountaineer*, was as follows. [His Lordship here read the instrument of 14th *October* 1826, for which see p. 318., antè.]

This paper bore a single stamp: and its reception was opposed on the ground, first, that, on the face of it, being signed in the name of the firm, it must be taken to refer to the partnership goods alone; for that the defendant had no right to bind the firm as to the freight of his own goods: and, secondly, that, if it could be held that this signature bound the defendant at all events, the undertaking beginning and ending in the singular number, yet, as it clearly bound the firm to the extent of the partnership goods, the instrument amounted to two undertakings, one by the defendant

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alone,

1838.

 SHIPTON
 against
 THORNTON.

1838.

SHIPTON
against
THORNTON.

alone, as to his own goods, and another by the firm as to theirs ; and, if so, there being two undertakings, as to two separate subject-matters, two stamps, it was said, were necessary. And, assuming this to be correctly argued, the case was distinguished from several cited in the argument, in which a community of interest, or a common divisible subject-matter, has been held to make a single stamp available though there have been many signatures to the instrument and it may, in certain senses, be said to evidence a plurality of contracts.

After much consideration, we are of opinion that this objection cannot prevail. In order to ascertain its force, it will be convenient to examine, in the first instance, what would be the effect of this instrument without reference to the Stamp Act ?

It appears that the defendant had been applying for the delivery of both parcels of goods : he had an interest in both ; and it was competent for him to make himself personally liable for the freight of both. In point of fact, he had delivered this undertaking as the means by which he was to procure the delivery of both parcels. Now, if he had written and signed an undertaking expressly naming both parcels, it cannot be doubted that it would have bound him for both, if signed in his own name : so, if he had signed the undertaking in question in his own name, as no distinction is made between the two parcels, and the words are large enough to cover both, we see no reason for saying that he would not have been liable for the freight of both. The question then is whether, having received the goods belonging to himself upon the faith of this undertaking, as well as those belonging to the firm, he can now object, in an action for the freight of the former, that this mode of
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signature does not bind him personally as to *this* freight, because the undertaking so signed would bind the firm as to the other freight, and the language of the instrument on its face may be satisfied by so applying it. We think he cannot. The names which he has chosen to affix as the signature are his own words, of his own choice, and must be taken most strongly against himself. His partner indeed could not be bound by his (the defendant's) agreement to pay for more than the freight of the partnership goods: but the defendant is liable on both accounts: and, when it is proved that he had been taking on himself to deal in respect of both, and delivered the undertaking in reference to both, it becomes immaterial what signature he affixes; for he, at least, must be bound by it.

If this would be the effect of the instrument independently of the Stamp Act, it remains to consider whether that makes any difference. Now, in the view we have taken of it, this is but one agreement, entered into by the defendant respecting the freight of two parcels of goods; and, being but one agreement, however many distinct articles it may embrace, one stamp only can be necessary. In the present action, the breach is only insisted on as regards the defendant's own goods: and the only question we have to consider is, whether it is properly stamped so as to be receivable in *this* action? Whether it may be tendered in some other action is immaterial. If, indeed, we saw that there were two agreements on the face of the instrument, and only one stamp, then, because it would be uncertain to which agreement the stamp was intended to be applied, we ought to receive it as evidence of neither. But this difficulty is removed by considering it to be

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1838.

SHIRTON
against
THORNTON.

1838.

SHIRTON
against
THORNTON.

but one agreement; and, if it be but one entire agreement, embracing for its subject-matter the freight both of the defendant's goods, and the goods of the firm, the legal conclusion is that it founds an action against him as to both, and against the firm as to neither.

It remains to consider an objection to the plaintiff's recovery, which is directed more to the merits of the case. Upon the trial, it appeared that the plaintiff had been paid freight by *The James Scott*, at the rate originally agreed on for so much of the voyage as had been performed up to the ship's arrival at *Singapore*, and for the remainder of the voyage to *London* at the rate at which he had contracted for the carriage of the goods by *The Mountaineer* and *The Sesostriis*. The action was brought for the difference between the two rates for that portion of the voyage. And it was objected that, for this portion of the voyage, he was not entitled to receive more than he had actually paid; while, on the part of the plaintiff, it was contended that, the necessity of the transshipment being assumed, which it must be for the purpose of the argument, *The Mountaineer* and *The Sesostriis* were to be considered as *The James Scott*. That the master had fulfilled his undertaking in carrying the goods to their destination, and had therefore earned his full freight, while it was a matter of indifference to the owner of the goods whether they had arrived safe by one vessel or the other. No authority bearing directly on the point from our own law books was cited on either side in the argument: it was treated very much as a new point, to be decided on principle; and our own researches have led us to the same conclusion.

On the part of the defendant, we were pressed with
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the impolicy of holding out any temptation to the ship owner or master to make unnecessary transshipments of goods; the inconvenience of any transshipment, whereby the goods themselves run the hazard of damage, the policy of insurance may become questioned, and the owner of the goods, at all events, loses the benefit of a conveyance by that vessel in which he may be supposed to have confidence, and for which, at all events, he has stipulated: all these circumstances, coupled with a consideration of the unprotected state in which his interests are at a distant port, must certainly be allowed to have great weight. But, after all, these seem to point to a vigilant examination of every case of transshipment, to see that its necessity be well established, rather than to decide the present question. This must turn upon the nature of the contract between the parties as it is to be collected from our own books, and, still more fully perhaps, from those foreign laws and ordinances, as well as the writings of jurists, to which our courts have long been accustomed to have recourse for guidance on subjects of this nature. It is clear that, by the contract, the shipowner (and the master as his agent) is bound to carry the goods to their destination, if not prevented from doing so in his own ship by some event which he has not occasioned, and over which he has no control. The master (says Lord *Tenterden* in his book *On Shipping*, part 3. ch. 3. 8 b. (a)) "should always bear in mind that *it is his duty to convey* the cargo *to the place of destination*. This is the purpose for which he has been intrusted with it, and this purpose he is bound to accomplish by every reasonable and practicable method." When, however, such an event

1838.

SHIPTON
against
THORNTON.

(a) Page 241. (5th ed.).

1838.

SWIFTON
against
THORNTON.

has occurred to interrupt the voyage, as above defined, and the shipowner or master (for we think no distinction can be made between the two) has no opportunity of consulting the freighter, there seems to be much disagreement in foreign ordinances and jurists on the point whether or no he is *bound* to tranship, or whether, having contracted only to carry in his own ship, he is not absolved from further prosecution of the enterprize by the *vis major* which prevents his accomplishing it in the literal terms of his undertaking. By the *Rhodian* law (*a*), the laws of *Oleron* s. 4. (*b*), and the ordinances of *Wisbuy*, art. 16. (*c*), the master was at liberty, but was not bound, to tranship: the old *French* Ordinance, on the other hand, in precise terms imposed the obligation upon him; “en cas que le vaisseau ne puisse estre raccomodé, le maistre sera obligé d’en louer incessamment un autre:” art. 11. Titre *Du Fret* (*d*). The terms of this ordinance occasioned, however, much controversy. *Pothier* (*e*) and *Valin* (*g*) maintaining that they were not imperative, except as the condition of earning full freight; *Émérigon*, on the other hand, insisting that the duty was strictly cast upon the master, as the agent of

(a) See the Greek text in *Pardessus, Collection de Lois Maritimes*, tom. 1. p. 256. ch. vi. s. 42.

(b) *Pardessus, Collection de Lois Maritimes*, tom. 1. p. 325. ch. viii. art. 4.

(c) *Pardessus, Collection de Lois Maritimes*, tom. 1. p. 472. ch. xi. art. 18.

(d) Liv. iii. tit. iii. *Pardessus* treats this as copied from the 4th article of the laws of *Oleron*, before cited. *Collection de Lois Maritimes*, tom. 4. p. 362. ch. xxvi.

(e) *Œuvres*, tom. ii. p. 394. ed. 2. (1781), *Contrats de Louages Maritimes*, part 1. (*Chartepartie*), sect. 3. art. 2. § 3. num. 68.

(g) *Nouveau Commentaire sur l’Ordonnance de la Marine*, lib. iii. tit. iii. (*Du Fret ou Noûs*), art. 11. (tom. 1. p. 651. ed. 1766).

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the freighters (a). The modern *French* code appears to adopt this view of the question; the words of the *Code de Commerce*, s. 296 (b), are, on this point, almost the same as those we have cited from the Ordinance; and it is stated by Chancellor *Kent*, who, in his commentaries, vol. 3. p. 210—213 (c), very ably and learnedly sums up the whole question, that *Boulay-Paty* (d) and *Par-dessus* (e), in their commentaries on it, have agreed in holding to the construction adopted by *Émérigon*. All authorities, however, are in unison to this extent, that “the master is *at liberty* to procure another ship to transport the cargo to the place of destination:” and in these words Lord *Tenterden* cautiously lays down the rule of our law: p. 240. part 3. c. 3. s. 8. It may therefore be safely taken to be either the duty or the right of the ship owner to tranship in the case above supposed; if it be the former, it must be so in virtue of his original contract; and it should seem to result from a performance by him of that contract that he will be entitled to the full consideration for which it was entered into without respect to the particular circumstances attending its fulfilment: on the other hand, if it be the latter, a right to the full freight seems to be implied; the master is at liberty to tranship; but for what purpose, except for that of earning his full freight, at the rate agreed on? In the case supposed, we may introduce another circumstance; let the owner of the goods arrive, and insist, as he undoubtedly may, that the goods shall not

1838.

 SHIPTON
 against
 THORNTON.

(a) *Traité des Assurances* (tom. 1. p. 423. ed. 1827), ch. xii. sect. 16.

(b) Liv. ii. tit. 8.

(c) 3d ed.

(d) *Cours de Droit Commercial Maritime*, tom. 2. p. 400—405. (ed. 1834) tit. 7. s. 8.

(e) See *Cours de Droit Commercial*, tom. 1. p. 363. (ed. 6.) part 4. tit. 4. c. 2. s. 715.

proceed,

1838.

SHIPTON
against
THORNTON.

proceed, but be delivered to him at the intermediate port: there is then no question that the whole freight at the original rate must be paid; and that because the freighter prevents the master, who is able and willing, and has the right to insist on it, from fulfilling the contract on his part, and because the sending the goods to their destination in another vessel is deemed a fulfilment of the contract. If, therefore, the owner of the goods be not present, and personally exercises no option, still the shipowner, in forwarding the goods, must have the same rights, and, in so doing, must be taken to exercise them with the same object in view.

We come to the conclusion, therefore, that the plaintiff in the present case was entitled to recover the difference he sued for. And, in the examination we have made, we have been compelled purposely to omit many states of circumstances, and modes of testing the argument which would not have been without their weight, but yet are of much consideration.

One question, however, has been asked, which it will not be right to pass over. What, it has been said, if the transshipment can only be effected at a higher than the original rate of freight? Which party is to stand to that loss? By the *French Ordinance* (a) and the *Code de Commerce* (b), and according to the decisions in *America* (to which Chancellor *Kent* refers (c)), the shipowner is

(a) See *Émérigon, Traité des Assurances* (tom. 1. p. 424.), ch. xii. s. 16., from which it seems that the only authorities in the ordinance are that already cited, (liv. iii. tit. 3. art. 11.), and liv. iii. tit. 3. art. 21., which is as follows, "Le maître sera aussi payé du fret des marchandises sauvées du naufrage, en les conduisant au lieu de leur destination." *Pardessus*, tom. 4. p. 363.

(b) See art. 350., cited in the text, *post*. And the note, in *Rogron's* edition (1836), to art. 296. Also art. 393.

(c) 3 *Com.* 212.

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entitled to charge the cargo with the increased freight, and, as a consequence of that rule, it becomes an average loss; and, in case of an insurance, must be made good by the insurers; *Émérigon, Traité des Assur.* ch. xii. s. 16. (a), *Code de Com.* 350. (b). No case of the sort that we are aware of has occurred in this country; nor is it necessary for us to express any opinion further than as it bears on the present question. It may well be that the master's right to tranship may be limited to those cases in which the voyage may be completed on its original terms as to freight, so as to occasion no farther charge to the freighter; and that, where the freight cannot be procured at that rate, another but familiar principle will be introduced, that of agency for the merchant. For it must never be forgotten that the master acts in a double capacity, as agent of the owner as to the ship and freight, and agent of the merchant as to the goods: these interests may sometimes conflict with each other; and from that circumstance may have arisen the difficulty of defining the master's duty under all circumstances in any but very general terms. The case now put supposes an inability to complete the contract on its original terms in another bottom, and, therefore, the owner's *right* to tranship will be at end; but still, all circumstances considered, it may be greatly for the benefit of the freighter that the goods should be forwarded to their destination, even at an increased rate of freight; and, if so, it will be the duty of the master as his agent to do so. *In such a case*, the freighter will be bound by the act of his agent, and of course be liable for the increased freight. The rule will be the same whether the transhipment be made by the shipowner or

1838.

 SHIPTON
against
 THORNTON.

(a) Tom. 1. p. 426.

(b) Liv. ii. tit. 10.

1838.

SHIPTON
against
THORNTON.

the master ; and, in applying it, circumstances make it necessary, on the one hand, to repose a large discretion in the master or owner, while the same circumstances require that the exercise of that large discretion should be very narrowly watched.

Lastly, it was urged, upon the evidence in this case, that the jury had not been warranted in the conclusion to which they came that the transhipment had been justified. But we are of opinion that this was for their consideration, and they were properly told that it lay upon the plaintiff to satisfy them of the propriety of the measure : there was evidence which warranted the verdict, and we do not feel willing to disturb it. Perhaps, indeed, the plaintiff might have complained of the manner in which it was left to the jury ; for the defendant, with a full knowledge of the fact, had expressly promised to pay the freight in order to procure the delivery of the cargo, and had thereby obtained it. The rule, therefore, will be discharged.

Rule discharged.

Saturday,
December 1st.

The QUEEN *against* The Justices of
CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

The QUEEN *against* The Justices of SHROPSHIRE.

The QUEEN *against* The Justices of
GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

These cases are reported, 7 A. & E. 480.

1838.

The QUEEN *against* HALE.Saturday,
December 1st.

TALFOURD Serjt. had obtained a rule, in *Trinity* term last, calling upon the prebendary of *St. Paul's, London*, lord of the prebendal manor of *Islington* in *Middlesex*, and his steward of the said manor, to shew cause why a mandamus should not issue commanding them to grant to the Master, Wardens, and Commonalty of Freemen of the art or mystery of Clothworkers of the city of *London*, or to their trustees, a licence to demise, for a term of forty years, to *E. F.* a piece of ground, parcel of the said manor, and abutting &c., and also to demise, for a term of twenty-one years, to *T. F.* a piece of ground, parcel &c. (a).

A mandamus will not go to compel the lord of a manor to grant a licence to a copyholder to demise his copyhold land on an alleged custom that the tenant may demise for three years without licence, and that, for licence to demise during a longer term, the lord shall have a sum certain for every year of such term.

From the affidavits it appeared that the Company of

(a) In the same term, *Talfourd* Serjt. obtained another rule, calling on the same parties to shew cause why a mandamus should not issue, commanding them to grant to the master, &c., or to their trustees, a licence to dig five acres of brick earth in their copyhold premises, parcel of the said manor, on payment of the accustomed sum of 21*l.* for every such acre. The affidavits contained statements for the purpose of shewing that the lord was bound, by the custom of the manor, to grant the licence on the above terms.

On the day on which the case in the text was argued, and before the same Judges, Sir *J. Campbell*, Attorney-General, shewed cause, and *Talfourd* Serjt. and Sir *W. W. Follett* were heard in support of the rule. The same objection was made, in shewing cause, which prevailed in the case in the text; and *Ballard v. Agard* (6 *Vin. Abr.* 240. *Copyhold*, (Y. e), pl. 3.) was cited in support of the rule, as shewing that a suit would lie in equity to compel a lord to grant a licence to let a copyhold.

Lord DENMAN C. J., on the following day (*June 14*), said that, considering the nature of the alleged custom, the Court were not satisfied of its existence by the affidavits.

Rule discharged.

1838.

**The QUEEN
against
HALE.**

Clothworkers were copyholders of the manor; and facts were stated to shew that the tenants had a right to demise, for any term not exceeding three years, without licence, and that, for a longer term, the lord, for every licence to demise, was entitled to 4*d.* for every year of the term. In the same term (a),

Sir *J. Campbell*, Attorney-General, shewed cause. No instance can be found of a mandamus to grant a licence. If the lord's licence be necessary, he is entitled to refuse it: a licence, *ex vi termini*, is matter of discretion. In *Grove v. Bridges* (b) a custom that, on payment of ten years' rent, the lord should license to let for ninety-nine years, and, if he refused, the tenant might do it without licence, was adjudged good. That is simply a custom that the tenant may let on payment of so much money: if the money were tendered, and the lord refused the licence, the tenant might still let: so that no mandamus would go to command the lord to license. In *Porphyry v. Legingham* (c) it was held a good custom for tenants, living at ten miles' distance, to be excused suit of Court for twelve months, on paying 8*d.* to the lord and 1*d.* to the steward; but it was not said that a mandamus would go to compel the lord to allow such excuse. Here, however, the custom shewn is, not that the tenant can demise for more than three years without licence, but that the lord, if he license, may demand payment at the alleged rate.

(a) June 13th, 1838. Before Lord Denman C. J., *Littledale* and *Patteson* Js., *absente Williams* J.

(b) Cited by *Moreton* J. in *Porphyry v. Legingham*, 2 *Keb.* 344. *S. C.* cited *Gillb. Ten.* 294., where it is said, "Yet the licence seems unnecessary here, since it may be done without it." See 1 *Scriven on Copyholds*, 545. (3d ed.).

(c) 2 *Keb.* 344.

Talfourd

Talfourd Serjt. and Sir *W. W. Follett*, contra. A licence is no more a matter of discretion than an admittance: the lord exercises a power, but his exercise of it is under the control of the custom, which this Court will enforce by mandamus. In 1 *Scriv. Cop.* 546. (3d ed.) it is said, "The terms upon which the lord's licence for a copyholder to demise is to be obtained, must depend upon the custom of each particular manor, in like manner as the fine on admittance; but the licence is usually given either in or out of court, as a matter of course, on payment of a certain fixed sum for each house or acre of land, for each year of the term of the proposed lease;" and *Kitchin* (a) is cited. Here such a custom appears: if the lord could refuse to license on the usual terms, he might demand any sum he pleased, which would, in effect, destroy the right of the copyholder to demise.

1838.

THE QUEEN
against
HALE.

Cur. adv. vult.

LORD DENMAN C. J. now delivered the judgment of the Court. This was an application for a writ of mandamus to the lord of a manor to grant to a tenant a licence to demise his copyhold for a term of years. The only ground for the application is an alleged custom in the manor that the lord should receive 4*d.* per annum for such a licence.

Independent of such a custom, it is plain that the granting or refusing a licence is a matter wholly in the lord's discretion; and the question is, what is the operation of such a custom.

On the one hand, it is said that, if the lord can, notwithstanding the custom, refuse to license altogether, he

(a) Pp. 166, 242. (3d ed.).

1838.

The QUEEN
against
HALE.

may indirectly extort a larger sum for a licence than the custom warrants; therefore his discretion must be taken away. On the other hand, it is argued that, if the custom compels the lord to license, it in effect amounts to a custom to demise without licence, paying 4*d.* per annum; which custom is not directly asserted or pretended to exist, but, if it do exist, the tenant may demise on tendering the 4*d.* per annum without danger of forfeiture, and does not want the assistance of this Court.

No instance is to be found of this Court granting a mandamus to the lord to license under any circumstances. It is said to have been decided that he may be compelled to do so in equity (a); but the authority cited is by no means clear or satisfactory.

Under these circumstances, we are of opinion that the rule for a mandamus must be discharged.

Rule discharged.

(a) See p. 339, note (a) *antè*.

Saturday,
December 1st.

EVANS *against* JAMES ELLIOT, SAMUEL ELLIOT,
and PATRICK.

Where a mort-
gagor in pos-
session makes
a lease, after
the mortgage,
reserving rent,
the mortgagee
cannot, by

REPLEVIN. Avowry by *James Elliot* and *Samuel Elliot*, and cognisance by *Patrick*, as their bailiff, for 27*l.* 10*s.* rent, for half a year ending 29th September 1832, stating the locus in quo to have been, before and

merely giving the lessee notice of the mortgage, and that principal and interest are in arrear, and requiring such lessee to pay the rent to him, make the lessee his tenant, or entitle himself to distrain for rent subsequently accruing under the terms of the lease.

Nor, if, after such mortgagee's death, his executors distrain for rent accrued before his death, but after the notice, and avow upon a holding by the lessee under the terms of the original lease, as tenant to the mortgagee, will such avowry be supported by proof that, after the mortgagee's death, the lessee paid the executors rent, in sums and at periods corresponding to the reservation in the lease, and recognised them as his landlords by letter; such a recognition not having relation back to the notice.

Quære, how far the mortgagee by his own conduct, as by permitting the mortgagor to remain in possession and to lease, without interfering, may preclude himself from treating the mortgagor and his lessee as trespassers?

on

on and after that day, held and enjoyed by plaintiff as tenant thereof to *Samuel Elliot* deceased, under a demise at a rent of 55*l.*, payable half yearly, to wit 25th *March* and 29th *September*; and that, after the said 27*l.* 10*s.* became due, *Samuel Elliot* died, and made the defendants *James Elliot* and *Samuel Elliot* his executors. There was also another avowry and cognisance, which led to a demurrer, on which judgment was given for the plaintiff. See *Evans v. Elliot* (a).

Pleas in bar, to the first avowry and cognisance, 1. *Riens in arriere*. 2. *Non tenuit modo et formâ*. Issues thereon.

On the trial before Lord *Denman* C. J., at the *Brecknockshire* summer assizes 1836, the plaintiff proved that, in 1830, *Philip Elliot*, being then in possession of the locus in quo, granted to the plaintiff a lease (or agreement for a lease), for a term of eleven years, at 55*l.* per annum, payable as stated in the pleadings; and that the plaintiff took possession under the lease, and held till the time of the distress, which was made in *November* 1834. The plaintiff paid rent to *Philip* till *Michaelmas* 1832, including the rent then due. The defendants proved that, by indenture of 11th *August* 1827, between *Philip Elliot*, of the first part, and the testator *Samuel Elliot*, of the second part, in consideration of 1100*l.* paid to *Philip* by the testator, *Philip* bargained, sold, and demised to him the locus in quo, habendum to the testator, his executors, &c., for 1000 years, subject to a proviso for cesser of the term on repayment of the 1100*l.* with interest. *Philip* continued in possession; but, the interest having become in arrear, the testator, on 3d

1838.

 EVANS
against
ELLIOT.

(a) 5 A. & E. 142.

1838.

EVANS
against
ELLIOT.

May 1832, gave the plaintiff notice of the mortgage and that the principal and a considerable sum for interest were due; adding, "I do therefore give you notice not to pay any rent now due, or hereafter to become due, from you, for the said messuages," &c., "to the said *Philip Elliot*, or to any other person or persons on his behalf, but to pay the same rent and arrears of rent to me," &c. The testator died in *December* 1832, leaving the defendants *James* and *Samuel Elliot* his executors. The plaintiff on two occasions paid half a year's rent, 27*l.* 10*s.*, to the executors, at periods corresponding to the reservation in the lease; and he wrote to them letters in which he requested them to perform certain repairs on the property, saying, "I am satisfied I cannot live under you as tenant, unless you will put the building more comfortable," and "you cannot expect of one to build on your premises." The Lord Chief Justice, on these facts, considered that the defendants' case was made out, and directed a verdict for them. In *Michaelmas* term 1836, *Chilton* obtained a rule for a new trial, on the ground of misdirection. In *Hilary* term last (a),

Evans and *Nicholl* shewed cause. It will be contended that notice, by the mortgagee, to a party who has become tenant under a lease granted by the mortgagor after mortgage, does not make him tenant to the mortgagee under such lease; and the dicta in *Partington v. Woodcock* (b) will be referred to. In that case it was urged, on the authority of *Pope v. Biggs* (c), that the

(a) *January* 27th, 1838. Before Lord Denman C. J., *Littledale*, *Williams*, and *Coleridge* Js.

(b) 6 *A. & E.* 690. *S. C.* 5 *N. & M.* 672. (c) 9 *B. & C.* 245.

mortgagor's

mortgagor's tenant may shew, against the mortgagor, that the mortgagee, under a mortgage prior to the commencement of the tenancy, has demanded the rent: upon which *Patteson J.* remarked that he never could see how notice could make the mortgagor's tenant tenant to the mortgagee at the former rent, though a new tenancy might be created at the old rent: and *Lit- tledale J.* seemed to think that the mortgagee had no remedy but ejectment. *Partington v. Woodcock* (a) can scarcely be considered an authority, for no formal judgment was given; so that *Pope v. Biggs* (b) is not over-ruled. The language of *Bayley J.*, in *Pope v. Biggs* (b), goes quite as far as is requisite for the de- fendants' case here. "I have no doubt, that in point of law, a tenant who comes into possession under a demise from a mortgagor, after a mortgage executed by him, may consider the mortgagor his landlord so long as the mortgagee allows the mortgagor to continue in possession and receive the rents; and that payment of the rents by the tenant to the mortgagor, without any notice of the mortgage, is a valid payment. But the mortgagee, by giving notice of the mortgage to the tenant, may thereby make him his tenant, and entitle himself to receive the rents. It is undoubtedly a well established rule, that a lessee cannot dispute the title of his lessor at the time of the lease, but he is at full liberty to shew that the lessor's title has been put an end to." The acquiescence of the tenant is not there con- sidered requisite, but only notice, which is said to have the effect of attornment. The situation in which the mortgagor in possession legally stands has been differ-

1838.

 EVANS
 against
 ELLIOT.

(a) 6 A. & E. 690.

(b) 9 B. & C. 245.

1838.

EVANS
against
ELLIOT.

ently described. It is now agreed that a mortgagor cannot bring ejectment or trespass. In *Doe dem. Rogers v. Cadwallader* (a) it was held that the mere receipt of interest by the mortgagee is not an admission that the mortgagor, or his tenant, is in lawful possession of the premises at the time: but Lord *Tenterden* there recognised the authority of *Doe dem. Whitaker v. Hales* (b), where such an admission was implied from the mortgagor having demanded the rent of the tenant by way of payment of the interest, and threatened a distress. It is true that *Littledale J.*, in *Doe dem. Rogers v. Cadwallader* (a), questioned that: but in the present case there is a demand by the mortgagee of rent, as rent; a payment of it; and letters afterwards recognising the relation of tenant and landlord; so that there is a virtual attornment. Stat. 4 Ann. c. 16. ss. 9, 10. gives the effect of attornment to notice in the cases there mentioned, when the tenant remains in possession. An attornment relates back to the accruing of the title; that is, in the present case, to the notice. After this the tenant could not deny the mortgagee's title as landlord, nor could the mortgagee treat the tenant as a trespasser. In *Pope v. Biggs* (c) *Parke J.* says that "The mortgagor may be considered as acting in the nature of a bailiff, or agent, for the mortgagee." [Lord *Denman C. J.* If the mortgagor made the lease as agent to the mortgagee, the mortgagee has been landlord throughout.] The mortgagee takes to the contract: it is like an assignment of the reversion. [Lord *Denman C. J.* But nothing is assigned after the lease.] In *Moss v. Gal-*

(a) 2 B. & Ad. 473.

(b) 7 Bing. 322.

(c) 9 B. & C. 245. See p. 258.

limore (a) Lord *Mansfield* said that the mortgagor was not tenant at will to the mortgagee properly, but only *quodam modo*. In *Keech, lessee of Warne, v. Hall* (b) he had been understood to describe the mortgagor as tenant at will. In a case later than *Partington v. Woodcock* (c), namely *Doe dem. Jones v. Williams* (d), *Patterson J.* said, "One is much at a loss as to the proper terms in which to describe the relation of mortgagor in possession and mortgagee. In *Partridge v. Bere* (e) such mortgagor is held to be tenant to the mortgagee; sometimes he is said to be the bailiff of the mortgagee; and in a late case (g) Lord *Tenterden* said that his situation was of a peculiar character. But it is clear that his possession is, at all events, not adverse to the title of the mortgagee." The mortgagee, therefore, could not treat the mortgagor, or those holding under him, at any rate after notice, as trespassers. That being so, if he cannot proceed for the rent he is without remedy. *Pope v. Biggs* (h) is confirmed in *Waddilove v. Barnett* (i); it was also cited in *Vallance v. Savage* (k), and *Tindal C. J.* there said, afterwards, "Even in the case of mortgagor and mortgagee, whose interests are adverse, acts of the mortgagor assented to by the mortgagee are considered as acts of the mortgagee." Here, also, nothing is said of the necessity of acquiescence by the tenant. It will be suggested that *Pope v. Biggs* (h) is impugned by *Rogers v. Humphreys* (l). That case, how-

1838.

 EVANS
against
ELLIOT.
(a) 1 *Doug.* 279.(b) 1 *Doug.* 21. See notes on this case and *Moss v. Gallimore*, in 1 *Smith's Leading Cases*, 295, 315.(c) 6 *A. & E.* 690.(d) 5 *A. & E.* 291.(e) 5 *B. & Ald.* 604.(g) Perhaps *Doe dem. Roby v. Maisey*, 8 *B. & C.* 767.(h) 9 *B. & C.* 245.(i) 2 *New Ca.* 538.(k) 7 *Bing.* 595.(l) 4 *A. & E.* 299.

ever,

1838.

 EVANS
 against
 ELLIOT.

ever, decides only the relation of the mortgagee to a party coming in under the mortgagor's lease, made after mortgage, where no notice has been given, and where there has been no payment of rent or acceptance of it: but it is said that, where there has been such payment and acceptance, the remedy would depend on the particular circumstances of the case, and a relation of landlord and tenant is created between the mortgagee and the tenants. [Coleridge J. Is the notice to have a different effect according as the lease is by deed or not? Do you say that the mortgagee comes in as if his name were incorporated in the lease? Is there a new tenancy created, or is the old continued?] As between the mortgagee and the tenant, the facts are tantamount to a recognition, by the mortgagee, of the mortgagor's authority to grant the lease: the tenant, therefore, holds on the old terms. The principal claims the benefit of the contract made by his assent, as in *The Duke of Norfolk v. Worthy* (a). *Alchorne v. Gomme* (b) is distinguishable. According to the plea in bar there, the tenant was distrained on by his lessors, who claimed under the mortgagor; and the plea insisted on want of title in the lessors at the time of the lease; at least the plea was so construed by the Court.

Sir *W. W. Follett*, *Chilton*, and *E. V. Williams*, contra. First, laying out of consideration acquiescence by the tenant, the mortgagee cannot, by giving notice, entitle himself to distrain, where the lease has been granted after mortgage. The notion that the mortgagee has such a power has arisen from a confusion between legal

(a) 1 Campb. 337.

(b) 2 Bing. 54.

and

and equitable rights. Legally, the mortgagor's lease is a lease by a party having no title, or, at the most, being merely a tenant at will or by sufferance, and therefore without power to lease. The legal owner is the mortgagee. So far the cases are all consistent, from *Keech, lessee of Warne, v. Hall* (a) to *Doe dem. Rogers v. Cadwallader* (b); there is no doubt that the mortgagee, if he will, and if he abstain from giving notice, may treat the tenant as a trespasser. It is true that the mortgagee may so act, as in *Doe dem. Whitaker v. Hales* (c), that he precludes himself from insisting upon his right. In this respect the case is no more than that of a lease made by any party without colour of title; the real owner may, by his conduct, preclude himself from treating the lessee as a trespasser. But it is contended, on the other side, that the mortgagee has the option of treating the tenant as a trespasser, or as his tenant. This suggests the question, whether the tenancy be the old or the new one. Suppose the mortgagor to have leased by deed for twenty-one years, with covenants: can it be contended that the mortgagee becomes the lessor and the covenantee, under this instrument, by virtue of a notice given by him to the lessee and covenantor? The difficulty is the same where the lease is without deed. The parties may enter into a new lease, and create a fresh relation of landlord and tenant, as any owner of land may with a stranger. So, too, circumstances might arise on which an action for use and occupation might be founded. But the defendants here are to shew that the plaintiff held under the old lease and on the old

1838.

 EVANS
 against
 ELLIOT.

(a) 1 Doug. 21.

(b) 2 B. & Ad. 473.

(c) 7 Bing. 322.

terms.

1898.

 EVANS
 against
 ELLIOT.

terms. *Moss v. Gallimore* (a) is inapplicable: there the lease had been made before the mortgage, which therefore was in effect an assignment of the reversion; and notice from the assignee to the tenant was necessary under stat. 4 Ann. c. 16. ss. 9, 10. If *Pope v. Biggs* (b) be correctly reported, it must be admitted that the language of *Bayley J.* is strongly against the plaintiff in the present case, though the actual decision was on a point which does not arise here. But the doctrine which appears to have been there laid down cannot be supported. The learned Judge remarks that a lessee is at liberty to shew that his lessor's title has been put an end to. But, where the mortgage is prior to the lease, the defence amounts to saying that the lessor had no title at the time of the demise. Upon these facts, the only title which the lessor had was one by estoppel, good as between him and his lessee, but not otherwise. The learned Judge adds, "There is another rule of law, viz. that the mortgagor cannot dispute the title of the mortgagee." But the question between the mortgagor and mortgagee would turn, not upon a general principle of law, but upon the effect which the mortgage deed had had in passing the property from one to the other. And the remarks said to have been made by his Lordship on *Keech, lessee of Warne, v. Hall* (c) are inaccurate. He represents that case as shewing that, though the lessee, in the case of a lease after mortgage, deny that the mortgagor ever had any interest, he may say that the mortgagor had a defeasible title, and that such title has since been defeated; and, in support of this, he points out that the mortgagee might have evicted the tenant, which

(a) 1 Doug. 279.

(b) 9 B. & C. 245.

(c) 1 Doug. 21.

would

would be an answer to an action by the mortgagor for the rent; and that it was not necessary for the mortgagee to bring ejectment, if the tenants were willing to attorn and pay rent. Now, though an actual eviction would be an answer to the mortgagor's action against his tenant, a liability to defeasance by title paramount, existing at the time of the lease, is no answer. And attornment would have no effect: stat. 4 Ann. c. 16. ss. 9, 10. applies only to the case of an assignment of the reversion, not to a claim paramount to the lessor's original title. *Doe dem. Whitaker v. Hales* (a) has been questioned by *Littledale J.* in *Doe dem. Rogers v. Cadwallader* (b); but, supposing it correctly decided, it shews only that a mortgagee may, by his own acts, preclude himself from treating the mortgagor's lessee, under a lease made after mortgage, as a trespasser; not that the mortgagee, by his own act, can make the lessee his tenant under the old lease. The plea in *Alchorne v. Gomme* (c) would have been good if the doctrine here contended for by the defendants were correct. There *Best C. J.* points out that the statutes relating to attornment, 4 Ann. c. 16. ss. 9, 10, and 11 G. 2. c. 19. s. 11, have nothing to do with the case. The question also necessarily arose in *Rogers v. Humphreys* (d), the Court laying down the rule as to both cases, of a lease created before the mortgage, and one created after; and they held that, in the latter case, the mortgagee could not distrain on the lessee unless the lessee chose to pay rent to him, and he chose to accept it. The dicta in *Partington v. Woodcock* (e) are also decisive on

1838.

 EVANS
 against
 ELLIOT.

(a) 7 Bing. 322.

(b) 2 B. & Ad. 473.

(c) 2 Bing. 54.

(d) 4 A. & E. 299.

(e) 6 A. & E. 690.

the

1838.

 EVANS
 against
 ELLIOT.

the point. The mortgagee, though in equity the mortgage is considered only as a pledge, is in law the absolute owner of the estate. It is argued that the mortgagee may adopt the mortgagor's contract. But it has been shewn that he may treat the lessee as a trespasser; and can he have an option whether he will treat him as trespasser or tenant? How can a man be a party to a lease, by subsequent ratification, when neither the original lessor nor original lessee contracted with reference to such party? It is impossible to make the mortgagee a party to the covenants and other terms of the original lease. In *Doe dem. Mann v. Walters* (a) the Court clearly considered that a party giving notice to quit on behalf of a landlord must have the landlord's authority at the time, and that a subsequent recognition is not enough.

Secondly, as to the alleged acquiescence by the tenant. At the time when the rent was due for which the avowry is made, nothing had taken place but the notice. It is impossible to infer from the subsequent transactions between the plaintiff and the mortgagee's executors, an agreement to become tenant to the deceased mortgagee, taking effect by relation, antecedently to the accruing of the rent in question. [Lord Denman C. J. I think you need not press this point: I thought the recognition by payment of rent came to very little; and I was not desired to put it to the jury as evidence of a previous tenancy to the deceased mortgagee.] Besides, to support this avowry, the recognition must be of a tenancy under the terms of the alleged demise by the mortgagee, which cannot be inferred. Nothing can be implied but

(a) 10 B. & C. 626.

a new tenancy: that, however, would be no answer to the plaintiff's case here.

1838.

EVANS
against
ELLIOT.

Cur. adv. vult.

Lord DENMAN C. J. now delivered the judgment of the Court.

This case was tried before me at the *Brecon* summer assizes 1836. It was a case of replevin, the distress having been taken by a mortgagee, who had become such previously to the lease granted by the mortgagor to the plaintiff. The mortgage money being unpaid, the mortgagee gave notice to the tenant to pay him the rent, and distrained on his refusal to do so. Stripped of some immaterial circumstances, the question was thus nakedly raised, whether the tenant of a mortgagor, by virtue of a lease posterior to the mortgage, becomes tenant to the mortgagee as soon as the latter gives him notice that there is a mortgage, and that the money has not been paid. On the authority of *Pope v. Biggs* (a) and *Waddilove v. Barnett* (b) I was of opinion, at the trial, that this question must be answered in the affirmative. And the language of some of the Judges in the former case may be thought to warrant the opinion, though there the question was, whether payments were protected, not whether the relation of landlord and tenant arose. On hearing the case argued, and more reflection, I am however now convinced that, by the mere fact of notice that the mortgage money remained unpaid, the mortgagee cannot forthwith cause the tenant to hold of the mortgagee. I am led to this conclusion by the injustice which I think would result from declaring that

(a) 9 B. & C. 245.

(b) 2 New Ca. 538.

1838.

EVANS
against
ELLIOT.

he possesses this privilege. As against the mortgagor, he might take possession the moment the condition is broken; but, if he chooses to permit him to retain possession, and to lease the premises, as owner, I think he cannot afterwards tell the lessee that he was deceived, and that the mortgagor was not the owner. The tenant clearly cannot deny his lessor's title, or protect himself against him by paying his rent to any other person. Can the law then permit another to come forward and say, "I am the real owner; and that character was assumed by the mortgagor by my consent: while you thought you were dealing with him, you were in fact dealing with me for the rent you may have already paid to him: I also claim the right to distrain"? The tenant's attornment is at least necessary to create this relation: and we are all clearly of opinion that the subsequent attornment, which was proved in this case, cannot have the effect of setting up the mortgagee's title by relation from the period when notice was given.

Thus far we are agreed: and the rule must be made absolute for a new trial.

But it is proper to state that the delay in giving our judgment has been occasioned, in a great degree, by my own doubt of the soundness of a doctrine which was strongly pressed upon the Court in argument, as the medium by which the result must be attained.

This argument was, that the mortgagee may always treat both the mortgagor and all who claim under him as trespassers; and that, for that reason, the mortgagor's lessee cannot become the tenant of the mortgagee. My learned brothers are, I believe, disposed to assent to this proposition, which, generally speaking, is certainly not to be questioned. But, for my own part, I wish to
guard

guard myself against being understood to adopt it as universal.

The contrary must, I think, be admitted,—that a mortgagee may so bind himself by his own conduct as to be precluded from treating the mortgagor's lessee as a trespasser: what conduct might amount to a recognition, seems to me to be rather matter of evidence than of law: but I confess that *Doe dem. Whitaker v. Hales* (a) appears to me, though doubted by my brother *Little-dale* in *Doe dem. Rogers v. Cadwallader* (b), to be well decided. I am by no means prepared to admit that a jury would not be warranted in inferring a recognition of the tenant's right to hold from the mere circumstance of the mortgagee's knowingly permitting the mortgagor to continue the apparent owner of the premises, as before the mortgage, and to lease them out, exactly as if his property in them continued.

The well-known case of *Keech, lessee of Warne, v. Hall* (c) is generally considered as an authority the other way: but Lord *Mansfield* was not there laying down the law upon the subject so much as explaining his own view of the manner in which mortgagor and mortgagee commonly regard one another in fact. I must add that some misconception may have arisen on this subject, from the care the Courts have employed in correcting an acknowledged error of the same great Judge, the error of supposing that the right to recover in ejectment could depend on any thing but the legal right of possession. This most frequently follows the legal estate; though Lord *Mansfield* was disposed in some cases to transfer it to him in whom no more than

(a) 7 Bing. 322.

(b) 2 B. & Ad. 473.

(c) 1 Doug. 21. a

1838. an equitable title was vested. A strong assertion of the right of the mortgagee in such a case against the mortgagor may have led to the notion that, as against the former, not only the latter, but all claiming under him, must be wrong-doers, without adverting to the possibility of the right of possession being recognised in another by the person enjoying the legal estate.

EVANS
against
ELLIOT.

Rule absolute for new trial.

Saturday,
December 1st.

GRAVES, CHEESWRIGHT, and LERMITTE, *against*
COLBY.

A company was incorporated, with power to the master, two wardens, and assistants (all chosen from the body of the company), to make by-laws for the government of the company, and to provide penalties, by fine, for breach of such by-laws;

the company to have the fines for their use. A by-law was made, that every one of the livery of the company who should be chosen steward and refuse to take the office, should forfeit 15*l.* to the master and wardens "for the time being, or to one of them, for the use, relief, and maintenance" of the company.

Defendant was chosen steward, and refused to take office. At the time of his election and refusal, *G.* was master, and *C.* and *L.* were wardens.

G., *C.*, and *L.* brought debt against defendant upon the by-law, not naming themselves, in the commencement of the declaration, as present or late officers, nor stating that they sued for the use of the company, but alleging the above facts, and that defendant had forfeited and become liable to pay 15*l.* to the master and wardens for the time being, or one of them, to the use, &c., of the company, whereby an action had accrued to plaintiffs *G.* so being master, and *C.* and *L.* so being wardens, to demand &c. (not adding, to the use, &c., of the company). Breach, that defendant had not rendered to the plaintiffs or the company.

Plea, that, at the commencement of the suit, *G.* was not master, nor *C.* warden. On demurrer,

Held, that the action did not lie, the right to sue not remaining in the officers after they had quitted office.

Quære, whether the action was maintainable by any one? •

purchase

purchase and possess manors, lands, &c., to them and their successors, in fee or for years &c.; and also goods and chattels &c., and to give, grant, &c., manors, lands &c., and to do and execute all and singular other deeds and things by the name aforesaid; and that by the same name they might plead &c., have a common seal &c.; and that thereafter, for ever, there might be and should be one of the commonalty of the mystery &c., in form in the said letters patent thereunder mentioned to be chosen, who should be, and who should be named, master of the said mystery &c.; and that likewise there might and should be two of the commonalty of the same mystery &c., in form &c. (as before), who should be, and should be named, wardens of the mystery &c.; and also that there might be and should be thirteen or more, not exceeding the number of twenty-four, of the commonalty aforesaid, in form &c. (as before), who should be named assistants of the aforesaid mystery &c., and from time to time should be assisting and aiding the same master and wardens for the time being in all causes, matters, and business touching and concerning the said master, wardens, and commonalty; and that it might and should be lawful to the same master, wardens, and commonalty, and their successors, to have a certain council-house &c.; and that the same master, wardens, and assistants, or the greater part of them, for the time being, as often as it should seem to them to be fit and necessary, might hold within the same house a court or convocation of the same master, wardens, and assistants, and common council, or the greater part of them; and in the same court &c. treat, confer, consult, provide, and determine of the statutes, articles, and ordinances touching or concerning the commonalty aforesaid, and the good

1838.

 GRAVES
 against
 COLONY.

1838.

GRAVES
against
COLEY.

rule, estate, and government of the same; and that the master, wardens, and assistants for the time being, or the greater part of them (of whom the master and one of the wardens for the time being to be two), upon public summons thereupon to be made, for that purpose assembled, might and should have full power and authority to constitute, ordain, and make, from time to time, reasonable laws, statutes, ordinances, decrees, and constitutions in writing whatsoever, which to them or the greater part of them &c. (quorum as before), according to their sound discretions, should appear to be good, wholesome, &c., for the good rule and government of the master, wardens, and commonalty &c., and of all other the turners and all other persons of the aforesaid mystery &c. within five miles of *London* &c.: and that the same master, wardens, and assistants for the time being, or the greater part of them &c. (quorum as before), so often as they should make, &c., such laws, &c., in form aforesaid, should make, limit, and provide such sort of, and such, pains, punishments, and penalties, by imprisonment of the bodies or by fines and amerciaments, or by either of them, towards and upon all delinquents against such laws &c., or either or any of them, as and which to the same master, wardens, and assistants for the time being, or the greater part of them &c. (quorum as before), should seem to be better, necessary, fitting, and requisite for the observance of the same laws, &c.; and that the same master, wardens, and commonalty, and their successors, might and should be able to have the same fines and amerciaments to the use of the aforesaid master, wardens, and commonalty, and their successors, without the impediment of the King &c.: all and singular which
rights,

rights, ordinances, laws, statutes, and constitutions, so as aforesaid to be made, the said late King willed to be observed under the pains in the same to be contained; so that such laws, &c., imprisonments, fines, &c., be reasonable, and not repugnant nor contrary to the laws, customs, or rights of the kingdom of *England*. The charter then, as set out in the declaration, appointed the first master, wardens, and assistants, and provided for the election of their successors.

The declaration further alleged the acceptance of the letters patent; and that, after the acceptance, to wit on 3d June 1823, at the *Guildhall* of the said city of *London*, and within the said city of *London*, the greater part of the then master, wardens, and commonalty of the said mystery &c. (setting out the performance of the requisites in the charter for making by-laws) did there, according to the powers granted to them by the said letters patent, and by force of the same, constitute, ordain, and make certain reasonable laws and ordinances in writing, for the good rule and government of the master, wardens, and commonalty of the said mystery &c.; by one of which ordinances it was ordained that every person, being of the clothing or livery of the said mystery &c., who should be thereafter chosen to be steward of the said mystery &c., and should neglect or refuse to take on him the execution of the said office, should forfeit and pay to the master and wardens of the said mystery &c., for the time being, or to one of them, for the use, relief, and maintenance of the said mystery &c., 15*l.* of lawful &c., which said ordinance, and the said fine therein mentioned, being reasonable, and not repugnant &c., nor contrary to the laws, statutes, customs, or rights of the kingdom of *England*, or of the

1838.

 GRAVES
against
COLBY.

1838.

GRAVES
against
COLEY.

united kingdom &c., nor to any of the customs or usages of the city of *London*, afterwards &c. (approbation by Lord *Eldon* C., Sir *C. Abbott* C. J. of K. B., and Sir *Robert Dallas* C. J. of C. P.); of all which said premises &c. the defendant afterwards, to wit on &c., had notice. Averment, that afterwards, to wit 16th *May* 1833, a convocation &c. was held (for electing a steward for the year then next ensuing); at which convocation the defendant, being of the livery &c., and a fit and proper person, was &c. (setting out defendant's election to be steward for the next year, notice thereof to him, and that he was duly required to take upon himself the execution of the office, and refused); by means whereof the defendant forfeited and became liable to pay to the master and wardens of the said mystery &c., for the time being, or one of them, for the use, relief, and maintenance of the said mystery &c., the sum of 15*l.* above demanded. Averment, that, at the time the defendant was so chosen &c., and at the time he so refused &c., *Graves* was master, and *Cheeswright* and *Lermitte* were wardens, duly elected &c. (setting forth the requisites according to the charter); of all which premises (notice to defendant). Whereby an action hath accrued to the said plaintiffs, the said *W. Graves* so being master, and the said *R. Cheeswright* and *J. Lermitte* so being wardens, of the said mystery &c., to demand and have of and from the defendant the said sum of 15*l.* so forfeited as aforesaid, and above demanded. Yet defendant, although often requested, hath not as yet rendered the said sum of 15*l.* above demanded, or any part thereof, to the plaintiffs or any of them, or to the said master, wardens, and commonalty &c., or any of them, but to pay the same &c. (refusal): and the same still is and remains wholly due and

and unpaid. And thereupon the plaintiffs bring suit &c.

Second plea. That, at the time of the commencement of this suit, the said plaintiff *W. Graves* was not, nor is he, the master of the said mystery &c.; and the said plaintiff *R. Cheeswright* was not, nor is he, the warden of the said mystery; nor were nor are the said plaintiffs entitled to maintain their said action against the said defendant in this behalf: and this &c. Verification.

Replication. That, at the time the defendant was so chosen to the said office of steward of the said mystery &c., and at the time he so refused to take upon himself the execution of the said office, the said *W. Graves* was master of the said mystery &c., and the said *R. Cheeswright* was warden of the said mystery; and that the plaintiffs are entitled to maintain their said action against the said defendant in this behalf: and this &c. Conclusion to the country.

General demurrer. Joinder.

The demurrer was argued in *Hilary* term last (a).

Gurney, for the defendant. The plaintiffs will probably object to the plea: and the defendant insists that the declaration is bad. First, the by-law, in terms, gives the forfeiture to the master and wardens "for the time being." That means, not the master and wardens at the time of the incurring of the forfeiture, but at the time when it is enforced; for it can be enforced only by the parties who are entitled to it. Thus, by stat. 54 G. 3. c. 170. s. 8., securities given for the maintenance of bastard children are vested in the overseers

(a) *Tuesday, January 16th, 1838. Before Lord Denman C. J., Little-dale, Williams, and Coleridge Js.*

1838.

GRAVES
against
COLBY.

1838.

 GRAVES
 against
 COLEY.

“for the time being,” who may sue upon them by the description of overseers; and the action is not to abate by a change of overseers, but to be proceeded in by the overseers “for the time being” as if no such change had taken place; and under this clause it was held, in *Addy v. Woolley* (a), that the action must be brought by the overseers in office at the time of commencing the action, though they be not the overseers to whom the security was given. In *Doe dem. Higgs v. Terry* (b) notice to quit was given to tenants from year to year of parish property, under stat. 59 G. 3. c. 12. s. 17., by the then churchwardens and overseers; and afterwards their successors brought ejectment, and recovered. Here, therefore, if any persons were entitled to sue, the action should have been brought by those who were officers at the time of commencing the action; though it is not incumbent on the defendant to shew that there is any party who can maintain the action. And, secondly, if the effect of the by-law is to give the forfeiture to those who were master and wardens at the time when the forfeiture accrued, the by-law is bad. It is clear that a by-law reserving a penalty to strangers is void, on a principle analogous to that which prevents the assignment of a chose in action. A corporation, without any by-law, may sue in case for breach of a custom; *Corporation of Colchester v. Simpson* (c): but a by-law giving a stranger the penalty for the breach is invalid; *Bodwic v. Fennell* (d). The only exceptions to this latter rule are in the cases of the chamberlains of *London* and *Bristol*; *Chamberlain of London’s Case* (e), *Hollings v. Hunger-*

(a) 8 Taunt. 691. S. C. 3 B. Moore, 21.

(b) 4 A. & E. 274.

(c) Cited in *Bodwic v. Fennell*, 1 Wils. 237.

(d) 1 Wils. 233.

(e) 5 Rep. 62 b.

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ford (a). But the chamberlains of *London* and *Bristol* are each a corporation sole; and in *Hollings v. Hungerford* (a) it was said "that *camerarius ex vi termini* signifies *thesaurarius* of the corporation;" and the Court "declared that he recovered for the benefit of the corporation," and that they would "take notice of the relation there is between the *chamberlain* and the *corporation*, and that he is no *stranger*, but (as it were) part of the *corporation*." In *Bodwic v. Fennell* (b) *Dennison J.* said, "I am not for carrying the right to sue, further than the *chamberlain* of a *corporation*, as in *Hollings v. Hungerford*" (a). It is clear that an action by a late chamberlain would not have been held to lie. In *Totterdell v. Glazby* (c) it was held that a by-law of the corporation of *Bath* was bad, which gave a penalty to a guild and company of tailors, though free of the corporation: here no present connection of any kind appears between the plaintiffs and the corporation.

Sir *W. W. Follett, contra*. As to the objection to the by-law, a corporation may, by their by-law, give a fine to a stranger for the use of the corporation. This was not disputed in *The Master, Wardens, and Commonalty of Feltmakers v. Davis* (d); though there were, in that case, other grounds for the decision. This is a convenient way of imposing the penalty; and the validity of it is established by the admitted instances of the chamberlains of *London* and *Bath*. In *Totterdell v. Glazby* (c) it appears that the penalty was not reserved to the use of the corporation. In *Willcock's Law of Municipal Corporations* it is said (p. 156. § 375.), "If the injury be to a

1838.

 GRAVES
against
COLBY.
(a) Cited in *Bodwic v. Fennell*, 1 Wils. 235.

(b) 1 Wils. 233.

(c) 2 Wils. 266.

(d) 1 Bos. & Pul. 98.

particular

1838.

 GRAVES
 against
 COLBY.

particular company, as where the custom excludes foreigners from the practice of a particular trade, or from the practice of the trade of a certain company, as well freemen as foreigners, unless free of that company, the penalty of the by-law ought not to be given to the municipal corporation or their officer, but to the company injured, or their treasurers in trust for them." For this *Mayor of Winton v. Wilks* (a), *Woolly v. Idle* (b), and *The Mayor of York v. Welbank* (c) are cited; and it is added, "Sed vide *Tailors of Bath v. Glazby*" (d). The principle seems to be that it is sufficient if, as here, the action be brought by parties really suing on behalf of those interested. In *Bodwic v. Fennell* (e) the party suing did not appear to be connected with the corporation, and sued for himself: the penalty was reserved to any person that would sue for it. *Ellington v. Cheney* (g) rests upon the same principle. Then, next, assuming the by-law to be valid, the proper parties to sue are the parties in office at the time of the forfeiture; for it is then that the right of action vests. If the action had been brought immediately upon the penalty accruing, there could have been no doubt that it was properly brought; but, in such a case, would the action abate, or a fresh party be substituted as plaintiff, at the expiration of the year of office? [Coleridge J. What would happen if the plaintiff died?] His executors might sue; if not (and some authorities deny it), the action would be at an end. *Addey v. Woolley* (h) was decided upon

(a) 2 *Ld. Raym.* 1129.(b) 4 *Bur.* 1951.(c) 4 *B. & Ald.* 438.(d) *Totterdell v. Glazby*, 2 *Wils.* 266. See, further, *Willcock's Law of Mun. Corp.* pp. 86, 87. ss. 184, 185.(e) 1 *Wils.* 233.(g) Cited in *Bodwic v. Fennell*, 1 *Wils.* 235.(h) 8 *Taunt.* 691. S. C. 3 *B. Moore*, 21.

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the language of the statute, which vests the security in the parties who are in office "for the time being." [*Cole-ridge J.* The situation of the master and wardens of a company is very different from that of the obligee of a bond.] At common law the obligee would have been the party to sue. *Doe dem. Higgs v. Terry (a)* was decided on a similar statutory provision.

1838.

GRAVES
against
COLBY.

Gurney, in reply. *Addey v. Woolley (b)* and *Doe dem. Higgs v. Terry (a)* shew the legal interpretation of the words "for the time being," which is the expression of the statute in each of those cases, and of the by-law here. The by-law is defended on the ground that the penalty is reserved for the use of the company. If so, the declaration is bad; for the plaintiffs do not sue for the use of the company, or in any other than a natural capacity. [*Littledale J.* Towards the end of the declaration it is said that the defendant became liable to pay to the master and wardens for the time being, for the use &c. of the mystery.] But the action is not so brought. In *The Master, Wardens, and Commonalty of Feltmakers v. Davis (c)* the action could not be brought by the company, because the penalty was not reserved to them. But it does not appear that the by-law was good: the Court say that the objection decided on was but one of many. The terms of the charter in *Ellington v. Cheney (d)* do not appear; perhaps it reserved power to the corporation to sue in the name of the master. No instance can be found of an action by a former chamberlain or his executors, even in the cases of *London* and *Bristol*. The declaration must fail on any view

(a) 4 A. & E. 274.

(b) 8 Taunt. 691. S. C. 3 B. Moore, 21.

(c) 1 Bos. & Pul. 98.

(d) Cited in *Bodwic v. Fennell*, 1 Wils. 235.

1898.

GRAVES
against
COLEY.

of the case; for the parties suing are strangers. If the by-law reserve the penalty to strangers, it is invalid; if not, the plaintiffs are not within the by-law.

Cur. adv. vult.

Lord DENMAN C. J. now delivered the judgment of the Court.

It is not disputed that the subject-matter of the by-law, as confirmed by the Lord Chancellor and two Chief Justices, is legal. But the objections to the action are, first, that, as the charter directs that the master, wardens, and commonalty of turners shall have the fines and amerciaments for the breach of the by-laws to the use of the master, wardens, and commonalty, the fine ought to have been directed to be paid to the master, wardens, and commonalty, and not to the master and wardens of the mystery or art, though it be expressed to be paid for the use, relief, and maintenance of the mystery or art. The next objection is that, supposing the by-law to be valid as far as relates to the penalty being to be paid to the master and wardens of the mystery or art for the use, relief, and maintenance of the mystery or art, yet the action ought not to be brought by the present plaintiffs, who, though they were the master and wardens when the penalty became forfeited, yet had ceased to be so before the action was brought. And that the action, if maintainable at all, should now be by the corporate body at large, or else by the persons who were the master and wardens when the payment was sought to be enforced by bringing the action.

As to the first objection, we think that a by-law made by a corporation cannot direct the payment to be made to a stranger to the corporation, with the exception, indeed,

deed, that it may be made payable to the chamberlain, who is considered as the treasurer of the corporation, and which therefore is in effect making it payable to the corporate body itself, because he is the officer whose duty it would be to receive the money, and to take care of it when so received. This appears from the case of *Bodwic v. Fennell* (a), where the penalty was given to any person who would sue for it. The case underwent much consideration : and the Court gave judgment "that although a body politic has power to make a by-law to enforce a penalty for breach of a custom, yet they cannot give an action (to recover that penalty) to a stranger, but the corporation themselves, or somebody for them (as the chamberlain in the case of the city of *London*), must sue" for it. "If the law were otherwise it would be very inconvenient, it would be like assigning a chose in action, which the policy of the law will not endure." In the course of the argument some cases were cited which established the principle, with the exception as to the chamberlain. The case of *Hollings v. Hungerford* (b), 3 G. 1., was debt on a by-law for the recovery of a penalty by the chamberlain of *Bristol* : the by-law was made under a power in their charter to make by-laws with penalties to be recovered for the use of the corporation. An objection was made that the chamberlain was a stranger to the corporation, a stranger to the right, and, therefore, a stranger to the remedy ; but it was held that the action was well brought, and that *camerarius ex vi termini* signifies the *thesaurarius* of the corporation : and they declared that he recovered for the benefit of the corporation, and the Court would

1838.

 GRAVES
against
COLBY.
(a) 1 *Wils.* 233.(b) Cited in *Bodwic v. Fennell*, 1 *Wils.* 235.

1838.

GRAVES
against
COLBY.

take notice of the relation there is between the chamberlain and the corporation; and that he is no stranger, but, as it were, part of the corporation.

In *The Chamberlain of London's Case* (a) it was considered that a penalty might be payable to the chamberlain of *London*. And so also in *Bosworth v. Herne* (b) an action for the penalty of a by-law was brought by the chamberlain of *London*. In *Mayor of Bedford v. Fox* (c) a penalty was made payable to the chamberlain of *Bedford*, and no objection on that account. In *Hesketh v. Braddock* (d) a penalty was made payable to the treasurers of *Chester*. The case of *Totterdell and Harris, Masters of the Tailors' Company at Bath, v. Glazby* (e) is a very strong one to shew that a penalty cannot be made payable to a stranger. The by-law was made by the corporation of the city of *Bath*, in which city there was a guild and company of tailors free of the city, and two masters for the government thereof, and a custom that none should exercise the trade of a tailor within the city, unless he was free of the trade and city: and a by-law was made by the corporation of the city imposing a penalty of 3s. 4d. a day upon any one exercising the trade, not being free thereof, to be levied by distress, or recovered by action of debt, by the masters of the company for the time being, for the use of the poor of the company of tailors. The Court held the by-law was a bad one, because these tailors are not the corporation of *Bath*, and therefore the by-law is ill in giving the action to the master of the tailors' company for the time being, who are strangers to the corporation of *Bath*:

(a) 5 Rep. 62 b.

(b) Ca. K. B. temp. Hardw. 405. S. C. 2 Str. 1085.

(c) 1 Lutw. 562.

(d) 3 Bur. 1847.

(e) 2 Wils. 266.

for

for to give it to anybody else is like assigning a chose in action, which the policy of the law will not allow. And this case is the stronger, because the penalty was made payable to the persons for whose benefit, in trust for the poor of the company, the penalty was to be applied. At the same time, if the doctrine of this case were necessary to support the judgment we are about to pronounce, we should pause a little; for it is very extraordinary that in little more than two years after this decision in the Common Pleas, which was in *Trinity* term 5 G. 3., a case was decided in the King's Bench, in *Michaelmas* term 7 G. 3., by the name of *Woolley v. Idle (a)*, where the plaintiffs were the masters of the fellowship and company of merchant tailors of the city of *Bath*, for a penalty under the very same by-law, at least as far as appears; and judgment for the plaintiffs on demurrer, Lord *Mansfield* saying there was no doubt. It is very true, the question there was solely upon the validity of the custom, and no objection made to the by-law, as in the case in *Wilson (b)*; but the extraordinary part of the case is that in little more than two years the masters of the same company should have thought of bringing an action on a by-law which had been held bad, and that the defendant should not have raised the objection; because the circumstances of the former decision must have been well known, one would suppose, amongst the persons most interested.

But we are to consider, in the case before us, whether the penalty, being made payable to the master and wardens for the use of the company, is bad on that account. The master and wardens are not strangers to the com-

1838.

 GRAVES
against
COLBY.

(a) 4 Bur. 1951.

(b) *Totterdell v. Glasby*, 2 Wils. 266.

pany,

1838.

 GRAVES
 against
 COLBY.

pany, for they are the two chief integral parts of the corporation. It is to be observed that, in the case of *Ellington v. Cheney*, 9 G. 2., cited by Mr. Justice *Dennison* in *Bodwic v. Fennell (a)*, it was held that a custom to exclude foreigners was good, and that a by-law with a reasonable penalty to support such custom is good, where the penalty is given to the corporation or guild. A by-law was made that, if a person should follow the trade of a shoemaker, not being free, he should forfeit a certain penalty, to be recovered by the master of the guild. The master brought the action; and the judgment was affirmed on a writ of error; and, if the penalty could be paid to the master, who was the head of the company, why should it not be good if it was to be paid to the master and wardens, who are the two head integral parts of the corporation?

And, in the case of *The Master, Wardens, and Commonalty of Feltmakers v. Davis (b)*, the master, wardens, and assistants had a power by the charter to make by-laws. A by-law was made, imposing a penalty upon any person who refused to take upon himself the office of renter warden, to be paid to the master and wardens for the time being for the use of the master, wardens, and company. The first count stated every thing specially: the second count was general, and specially demurred to; and one of the grounds of demurrer was, that the forfeiture is stated to have been incurred to the master and wardens, whereas the master and wardens are not the plaintiffs in the action. Lord Chief Justice *Eyre*, in giving the judgment of the Court, says, "The forfeiture in question is to be paid to the master and

(a) 1 *Wils.* 235.(b) 1 *B. & P.* 98.

wardens,

wardens, to the use of the master, wardens, and company. If the by-law is badly framed, it is the fault of those who framed it. If they have chosen to empower their master and wardens to sue, the Court cannot look any further: no regulation with respect to the payment of the money by them to any other persons will vary the right of action." "The master and wardens may bring the action, and apply the money to the use of the company. They may sue in the same manner as the chamberlain of *London* does for the corporation of *London*: and they would probably declare both in their natural and official capacities." The count was held bad for this, amongst other, objections. It does not appear from the report whether the charter, empowering by-laws, stated that the master, wardens, and commonalty should have the fines, as in the case now before us: however, the court of Common Pleas does not say that the by-law is bad by directing the penalty to be paid to the master and wardens. And, taking all these authorities together, we are not prepared to say that the by-law now under consideration is bad for directing the penalty to be paid to the master and wardens for the use of the master, wardens, and company.

Then, supposing there be no objection to the by-law itself, the next question is, is the action well brought in the name of the present plaintiffs?

The penalty is to be paid to the master and wardens *for the time being*. It may be asked, what is the meaning of these words? Is it to those who were master and wardens when the penalty was incurred, or those who were master and wardens when payment was endeavoured to be enforced?

Stat. 54 G. 3. c. 170. s. 8. enacts that securities given

VOL. IX.

C c

for

1838.

GRAVES
against
COLEBY.

1838.

 GRAVES
 against
 COLBY.

for indemnifying the district or parish as to bastard children are declared to be vested in the overseers of the poor for the time being; and, in the case of *Addey v. Woolley* (a), where an action was brought by the overseers of the poor to whom a bond was given for indemnifying the parish, and the defendants pleaded that the plaintiffs were not overseers at the time of the commencement of the action, the plea was held good, and that the action could not be brought in the name of the overseers to whom the bond was given. We do not cite this case as an authority to shew that the present plaintiffs cannot maintain the action, but to shew in what way the Court construed the words *for the time being*, which is "those who were such when the action was commenced."

This case, however, is not within either stat. 54 G. 3. c. 170., or stat. 59 G. 3. c. 12. s. 17., which has been referred to in the argument in citing the case of *Doe dem. Higgs v. Terry* (b); as those acts are confined to parish officers who are authorized by these respective statutes to sue and hold property as if they were corporations.

In considering the effect of the decisions that a by-law cannot reserve a penalty to be paid to a stranger: they are some of them as to penalties given to whoever will sue; but it may be said that masters and wardens are not to be considered in that light, but they are integral parts of the corporation, and therefore may sue: and so perhaps they may, while they fill that situation; but they were not so at the time of the action brought; and, for anything that appears, they did not then be-

(a) 8 Tawnt. 691. S. C. 3 B. Moore, 21.

(b) 4 A. & E. 274.

long to the corporation in any character whatever, and may be strangers; and, therefore, if the by-law was so framed as to allow them to sue now, it would be authorising persons who may be strangers to the corporation to sue for the penalty. It may be said they would be trustees for the corporation; but it is much more expedient that penalties should be sued for, either by the corporation at large, or by persons who are connected with it, and not to allow persons who may stand in the relation of trustees only to have anything to do with it.

It may be said, however, that there was a right of action once vested in the plaintiffs by the defendant refusing to execute the office; and it may be compared to a bond given to the churchwardens and overseers to indemnify the parish: in which case, before stat. 54 G. 3. c. 170., the action would be brought in the name of the churchwardens and overseers to whom the bond was given, though they were out of office when the action was brought. But that case differs from this: in these parish bonds the defendant personally enters into a contract by bond with the churchwardens and overseers, by their individual names of *A. B.* and *C. D.* &c., though they are also described as churchwardens and overseers; but here is no contract, but the defendant is a wrong doer, and subject to a penalty, not to be paid to the plaintiffs, or any other person by name, but to the master and wardens in their character official and politic: their right to receive the money, or to bring an action on non-payment, only belongs to them in their official and politic character; and, when that ceases, their right to receive the money and to bring an action ceases with it. And we are of opinion that they cannot maintain the

1838.

GRAVES
against
COLEY.

1838.

 GRAVES
 against
 COLEY.

present action, and that there must be judgment for the defendant.

We give no opinion, whether the corporation at large, or the present master and wardens, could maintain an action. According to the opinion of Lord Chief Justice *Eyre*, in delivering the judgment of the Court in *The Master, Wardens, and Commonalty of Feltmakers v. Davis (a)*, the corporation at large could not maintain it; and, as to the present or any future master and warden maintaining it, the objection seems to be that, to do so, they must take in succession in the nature of a corporation. The chamberlain of the city of *London* is a special corporation sole for some purposes; and there is a custom in *London* that several things in which he has acquired an interest shall go to his successors, who have the same right to proceed upon them as he had; in *Byrd v. Wilford (b)* it was so held; and other cases were there cited as having been decided to the same effect; and so also in *Fulwood's Case (c)*. It would, however, be very difficult to apply the same rule to the master and wardens of this company.

And, if the circumstances of this case are such that the defendant is not now liable to anybody, it is the fault of the corporation in not making the by-law conformable to the charter, or in not bringing their action earlier.

Judgment for defendants.

(a) 1 B. & P. 98.

(b) Cro. Eliz. 464.

(c) 4 Rep. 64 b.

1838.

HUTCHINSON and Another, Assignees of HUNT, *Saturday, December 1st.*
a Bankrupt, against HEYWORTH and Others.

ASSUMPSIT for money had and received. Pleas: *H., a manufacturer, had been accustomed to consign goods by the agency of O. and Co., commission merchants, to houses in America, for sale on H.'s account. O. and Co. made advances to H. on the consignments, received the*
1. Non assumpsit. 2. Payment before action brought.
3. A payment into Court. On the trial before Lord Abinger C. B., at the *Liverpool* summer assizes, 1835, a verdict was found for the plaintiffs, subject to the opinion of this Court on the following case.

The action was brought by the plaintiffs as the assignees of *Hunt*, to recover 5000*l.* and interest. The bankrupt, *William Hunt*, is the surviving partner of the proceeds as his agents, and accounted to him, repaying themselves their commission, advances, and other charges. In 1831, *H.*, being indebted to *O. and Co.* for such advances and charges, and likewise owing 5000*l.* to his own bankers, wrote to *O. and Co.*, authorising them, after paying themselves their balance out of the net proceeds of *H.*'s shipments down to that date, to pay *R. and Co.*, the bankers, half the remainder of such proceeds, so that the payment should not exceed 5000*l.* *O. and Co.* thereupon wrote to *R. and Co.*, stating that they, agreeably to *H.*'s authority, engaged to pay *R. and Co.* (after liquidating their own balance) a proportion of the remaining proceeds, &c. (as in *H.*'s letter), in consideration of *R. and Co.* guaranteeing *O. and Co.* from claims by any other party in consequence of such payment. *R. and Co.* then wrote to *O. and Co.* that, understanding from *H.* that *O. and Co.* had agreed to pay any surplus balance, &c. (as in *H.*'s letter), they, *R. and Co.*, agreed to guarantee *O. and Co.* against such other claims. A few days before this correspondence, *H.* had transmitted to *O. and Co.* a letter of authority resembling that afterwards sent, and had seen a draft of a letter from them to *R. and Co.*, like that afterwards sent by *O. and Co.* to *R. and Co.*, claiming a guarantee as above: but this first authority was revoked, and never acted upon. In 1833 *H.* became bankrupt. The assignees gave *O. and Co.* notice not to make any payments out of *H.*'s effects, except to them. Afterwards *O. and Co.* received proceeds of sales from the houses abroad, and paid them over to *R. and Co.* according to the authority given by *H.* The assignees sued *O. and Co.* for the amount as money had and received to their use: Held,

1. That the letter of *H.*, acted upon by *O. and Co.*, did not need a bill stamp under stat. 55 G. 3. c. 184., *sched. part 1. tit. Inland Bill*, since it neither required payment to bearer or order, nor was delivered to the payee or any person on his behalf. For

The schedule means a delivery either personally to the payee, or to his agent or representative, and not to the person on whom the order is made.

2. That, if the letter had been so delivered, the sum payable was sufficiently specified or ascertainable to bring it within the schedule as an order for payment of money out of a particular fund which may or may not be available, &c.

3. That the transaction between *H.*, *O. and Co.*, and *R. and Co.*, was either a valid appropriation, or equitable assignment, of funds to the amount of 5000*l.* in favour of *R. and Co.*, and was not revoked by *H.*'s bankruptcy.

1838.

HUTCHINSON
against
HEYWORTH.

firm of *Hunt and Jenkinson*, woollen manufacturers at *Rochdale*. The defendants are commission merchants and agents at *Liverpool*, under the firm of *Ormerod Heyworth and Co.* For many years preceding the bankruptcy, *Hunt and Jenkinson* had been in the habit of consigning their manufactured goods through the defendants to certain mercantile establishments in *America*, which are mentioned in the letters hereinafter set out, and which had been recommended to them by the defendants for sale on account of *Hunt and J.*, and to an immense amount; and, by the course of dealing between the parties, *Ormerod Heyworth and Co.* made advances to *Hunt and J.* upon such consignments. The proceeds of the sales were to be remitted by the foreign houses to the defendants in *Liverpool*, on account of, and as the agents of, *Hunt and J.*; and the defendants were to account for the same to *Hunt and J.* after repaying themselves thereout their commission, advances, and other charges. The defendants were partners in each of those foreign establishments; but the foreign partners in those foreign houses were not partners in the house of *Ormerod Heyworth and Co.*

This course of dealing continued for upwards of twelve years, the proceeds of all sales being regularly remitted to the defendants, who regularly advised *Hunt and J.* thereof, and placed the same to their credit, or paid over the amount, as circumstances required; and the defendants made up and balanced and regularly transmitted to *Hunt and J.*, and to *Hunt* after *Jenkinson's* death, and to the plaintiffs after *Hunt's* bankruptcy, their accounts current of all the said transactions, half yearly, up to every 30th *June* and 31st *December*,

December, which have been regularly approved of, except as to the 5000*l.* in question and interest thereon. No consignments were made after 30th *September* 1831. At that time the amount of *Hunt and J.*'s goods shipped abroad through the defendants, and unsold, was from 39,000*l.* to 40,000*l.*; and the amount of remittances received by the defendants subsequent to *September* 1831, on account of consignments previous thereto, is about 43,500*l.* *Hunt and J.* were at that time indebted to the defendants in a large sum, for advances in anticipation of sales, and for commissions and charges. *Hunt and J.* had also then become indebted in upwards of 5000*l.* to *Clement Royds and Co.*, of *Rockdale*, their bankers, which debt remained unsatisfied until the time of the payment of 5000*l.* to *Royds and Co.*, as after mentioned. On 23d *September* 1831, *Hunt and J.*, being so indebted as aforesaid, wrote and sent the following letter to the defendants.

1838.

HUTCHINSON
against
HEYWORTH.

Liverpool, September 23d, 1831.

Messrs. *Ormerod Heyworth and Co.*

Gentlemen, — We hereby give you authority to pay to Messrs. *Royds and Company*, bankers, *Rockdale*, after you have paid yourselves the balance we owe you, from the net proceeds of our shipments to your foreign establishments up to the present date, one half of the remainder of the proceeds of said shipments. We remain, &c.

Hunt and Jenkinson.

In answer to which the defendants, on the same day, sent to *Hunt and J.* the following enclosed in another letter.

1838.

HUTCHINSON
against
HEYWORTH.

Messrs. *Royds and Co.*, bankers, *Rochdale*.

Gentlemen, — We have this day received an authority from Messrs. *Hunt and Jenkinson* to pay you, after we have liquidated the balance they owe to us from the first proceeds of their shipments to our foreign establishments up to the present date, one half of the remainder of the proceeds of the said shipments, which at a moderate estimate we think will amount to about 4700*l*. This authority we engage to comply with, on the condition of your guaranteeing us from any claim which may be made on us by any other party in consequence of such payment having been made to you. We remain &c.,

Ormerod Heyworth and Co.

On 28th September 1831, *Hunt and J.* wrote and sent the following letter to the defendants.

Liverpool, 28th September, 1831.

Messrs. *Ormerod Heyworth and Co.*

Gentlemen, — Your letter to Messrs. *Royds and Co.* of the 23d instant, enclosed in yours of the same date, we did not present to them, thinking it would not be satisfactory; and, having returned to you the same, we now authorise you to pay to Messrs. *Royds and Co.* (having revoked the former order in their favour), after you have paid yourselves the balance we owe you from the net proceeds of our shipments to your foreign establishments to the present date, one half of the remainder of the proceeds of said shipments, provided the same shall not exceed the sum of 5000*l*. We remain &c.,

Hunt and Jenkinson.

The

The defendants on the same day wrote and sent the following letter to *Royds and Co.*

1838.

Liverpool, 28th September, 1831.

HUTCHINSON
against
HEYWORTH.

Messrs. *Royds and Co.*

Gentlemen, — We refer to ours of the 23d instant, which has been returned to us by Messrs. *Hunt and Jenkinson*, not being satisfactory to them, which we now revoke. We therefore now, agreeably with their authority, engage to pay you, after we have liquidated the balance they owe to us from the first proceeds of their shipments to our foreign establishments up to the present date, a proportion of the remainder of such proceeds as may come into our possession, which we expect will be to a considerable amount, so as not to exceed the sum of 5000*L.*, in consideration of your guaranteeing us from any claim which may be made on us by any other party, in consequence of such payment having been made to you. We remain, &c.

Ormerod Heyworth and Co.

They received the following answer from *Royds and Co.*

Messrs. *Ormerod Heyworth and Co.*

Gentlemen, — Understanding from our friends, Messrs. *Hunt and Jenkinson*, that you have agreed to pay over to us one half of any surplus balance arising from the proceeds of goods consigned to your foreign establishments up to this date after liquidating your claims against them, we hereby agree to guarantee you from any claim which may be made on you from any other party in consequence of such payments.

Clement Royds and Co.

Rochdale, 30th September, 1831.

At

1838.

HUTCHINSON
against
HEYWORTH.

At the trial, the above letters of *Hunt and J.* to the defendants were produced to shew the authority of *Hunt and J.*, and were objected to as not properly stamped, the only stamp being an agreement stamp of 1l. 15s. on the letter of 28th *September* 1831, for all the letters. This point was reserved.

In *February* 1833, *Hunt*, the then surviving partner, committed an act of bankruptcy; and on 7th *March* 1833 the fiat in bankruptcy issued, under which *Hunt* was declared bankrupt, and the plaintiffs were chosen assignees. On 15th *April* following, the plaintiffs served a notice on the defendants not to make any payment out of the bankrupt's effects then in their hands, or which might thereafter come into their hands, to *Royds and Co.*, or to any one else but the plaintiffs. The defendants, however, subsequently, in pursuance of the alleged authority and engagement contained in the letters above stated, paid *Royds and Co.* the sum of 5000*l.*, which had been received by the defendants after the service of the above notice. The defendants have paid the plaintiffs, and paid into Court under the plea for that purpose in this cause, all the proceeds of the consignments received by them, excepting that sum, which does not exceed one half of the remainder of those proceeds after satisfying the defendants the balance due to them at the time of the bankruptcy, which was liquidated prior to the receipt by the defendants of any part of that 5000*l.* The payment into Court also covered the plaintiffs' claim for interest on the 5000*l.*

The question for the opinion of the Court was, whether the plaintiffs were entitled to recover the 5000*l.* under the circumstances stated. If the Court should be of that opinion, the verdict was to stand; otherwise, a nonsuit

nonsuit to be entered. The case was argued in last *Easter* term (a).

1838.

—
HUTCHINSON
against
HEYWORTH.

Cresswell for the plaintiffs. First, the letter from *Hunt and Jenkinson*, of *September 28th*, was not duly stamped; and, if so, the defendants had no legal authority to pay over the 5000*l.*, and the *prima facie* claim of the plaintiffs as assignees must prevail. That letter should have been stamped as a bill of exchange, according to stat. 55 G. 3. c. 184. Sched. Part I., under the head of Inland Bills, "where the total amount of the money thereby made payable shall be specified therein, or can be ascertained therefrom." Certain instruments are there enumerated, which "shall be deemed and taken to be inland bills;" and, among them, "all bills, drafts or orders for the payment of any sum of money out of any particular fund which may or may not be available, or upon any condition or contingency which may or may not be performed or happen, if the same shall be made payable to the bearer, or to order, or if the same shall be delivered to the payee or some person on his or her behalf." Here the letter from *Hunt and Jenkinson*, of *September 28th*, was an order for 5000*l.*, or so much less as the proceeds in question should amount to. In *Emly v. Collins* (b) an order for the payment of certain sums out of the proceeds of an intended sale was held to require stamping as an inland bill. It was objected there, that the order was, in its terms, a direction, not only to pay money, but to do a collateral act, namely, to take a receipt: the

(a) *May 1st*. Before Lord *Denman* C. J., *Littledale*, *Patteson*, and *Coleridge* Js.

(b) 6 M. & S. 144.

1898.

HUTCHINSON
against
HETWORTH.

Court, however, thought that was not its effect; nor, in the present case, is any collateral act required. In *Firbank v. Bell* (a) a bankrupt, whose assignees were the plaintiffs, wrote to the defendants, before his bankruptcy, requiring them, when certain mahogany belonging to the bankrupt was sold, to pay *Pease and Co.* 1500*l.* in such bills as defendants should receive from the sale. Some other letters were in evidence; and the defendants urged that the whole constituted an agreement: and one of the documents was stamped accordingly. But Lord *Ellenborough* said, "There is nothing to which the name of an agreement can be given if you do not pray in aid the order; that is the only thing by which the bankrupt is personally implicated; for he is not a party to the other letters. The order alone affects the bankrupt, and that amounts to nothing more than an order for payment. It falls then within the description of the act of parliament, viz. an order for the payment of money out of a fund which may or may not be available. It was the object of the legislature in framing this provision to treat as promissory notes and bills of exchange, and to subject to a stamp duty such instruments as, being payable on a contingency or out of a particular fund, could not in strictness fall under that denomination." Those observations apply to the present case. The engagement of the defendants to pay *Royds and Co.* was in consideration of their guarantee: the authority to pay was no part of any agreement under which that payment was made. In *Butts v. Swann* (b), which nearly resembled the last cited case, there was a similar decision. *Jones v. Simpson* (c) may be referred

(a) 1 B. & Ald. 36.

(b) 2 Brod. & B. 78.

(c) 2 B. & C. 318.

to; but there the order was, please to pay *N.* “the proceeds of a shipment of twelve bales of goods, value about 2000*l.*, consigned by me to you.” That was held not to require a bill stamp; but the order there was for no specific amount; as *Abbott C. J.* observed, no sum was specified, or could be ascertained from the instrument; there were no means of fixing the amount of duty to be imposed. [*Littledale J.* Here the letter of *September* 28th did not make the sum “payable to the bearer, or to order;” was it “delivered to the payee, or some person on his” “behalf?”] It was delivered to the defendants for the payees’ use. Where the order conclusively affects a fund in the hands of the person to whom it is addressed, for the benefit of a third party, it must be stamped as a bill: not so if it merely gives a revocable authority in his favour. [*Patteson J.* It does not appear that the letter of *Hunt and Jenkinson* ever reached the payees: all they received was a letter from the defendants, with a conditional assent to pay over certain proceeds to the use of *Royds and Co.*] As soon as the communication was made to the parties interested, that the defendants had the order, and would pay the amount specified, it was an order on the fund referred to, for the use of the payee. [*Littledale J.* The expression, that an instrument shall be delivered on the behalf of another, seems to imply that it belongs to that other, and is to be handed over when he calls for it. Here, the order was not meant to come into the hands of *Royds and Co.* *Coleridge J.* The defendants would have a right to hold ‘it as their voucher.] They would not need that protection unless they paid the money. *Royds and Co.* were the parties beneficially interested: the defendants could have no right to hold the order but on their behalf; and they did,

1838.

HUTCHINSON
against
HEYWORTH.

1838.

HUTCHINSON
against
HETWORTH.

did, after the arrangement resulting from the several letters, hold it for the use of *Royds and Co.* There was nothing in the transaction calculated to give the defendants a lien which they had not before. It was as if a bill of exchange, drawn on the defendants in favour of *Royds and Co.*, had come to the hands of the defendants in the ordinary way, and they had said to *Royds and Co.*, we have received a bill in your favour, which we accept: *Royds and Co.* would clearly have been entitled to that bill.

Supposing, however, that nothing was given which legally amounted to a bill, but that *Ormerod Heyworth and Co.* received a simple authority from *Hunt and Jenkinson* to pay *Royds and Co.*, that authority was revoked when *Hunt* became bankrupt; and, before any part of the 5000*l.* came to the defendants' hands, the assignees had given them notice not to pay it over. The partners in the foreign houses were not partners in the firm of *Ormerod Heyworth and Co.*; the order, therefore, received by this firm from *Hunt and Jenkinson* would not bind any sums in the hands of the firms abroad. When the order was made, no new consideration had arisen for the giving it; the making such order was no part of any original transaction out of which a debt arose from *Hunt and Jenkinson* to *Royds and Co.* In *Fisher v. Miller* (a) the defendant, as agent and by order of *Chesmer*, a bankrupt, paid over 500*l.*, the proceeds of a cargo, to creditors of *Chesmer*, which proceeds were afterwards claimed from the agent, but held not to be recoverable by *Chesmer's* assignees. But there the creditors had advanced 500*l.* to the bankrupt, on a promise that the proceeds of the particular cargo should be ap-

(a) 1 Bing. 150.

propriated to the discharge of this debt. In *Bradbury v. Anderton* (a) the bankrupt, whose assignees were plaintiffs, sold goods to the defendant; the latter, instead of paying the price, gave credit for the amount to two persons who were his debtors, and creditors of the bankrupt, by agreement among all the parties; and it was there held that, if an irrevocable appropriation of the purchase-money to the two creditors formed a part of the contract of purchase, the assignees (who sued for the purchase-money) could not dispute the appropriation. Here no such original appropriation took place; Nor can the present case rank with those which turn upon the principle that where *A.* owes *B.* an ascertained sum, and is creditor to *C.* in the same amount, and the several parties agree that *C.* shall pay *B.* the debt of *A.*, which *C.* thereupon promises to do, then (though in general a chose in action cannot be assigned) *B.* may sue *C.* for the debt of *A.*, as money had and received: *Israel v. Douglas* (b), *Fairlie v. Denton* (c). In such cases the liability transferred must be for an ascertained sum, and (as appears from *Cuxon v. Chadley* (d)) the debt due from the assigning party must be discharged by the transaction. Here neither of those circumstances existed. *Ormerod Heyworth and Co.* were not indebted to *Hunt and Jenkinson*, and these last were not, by making the order in question, released from the demands of *Royds and Co.*: there was no assignment of any supposed debt, to be taken in payment by them: they still retained their right to sue *Hunt and Jenkinson*. *Scott v. Porcher* (e) shews that in such a

1838.

HUTCHINSON
against
HEYWORTH.

(a) 1 Cro. M. & R. 486. S. C. 5 Tyr. 152. (b) 1 H. Bl. 239.

(c) 8 B. & C. 395. See *Wilson v. Coupland*, 5 B. & Ald. 229.

(d) 3 B. & C. 591. See *Wharton v. Walker*, 4 B. & C. 163.

(e) 3 Mer. 652.

1858.

HUTCHINSON
against
HEYWORTH.

case there must, to complete the appropriation, be an assent of all the three parties; and, if a third party, for whose benefit the direction is given, be not cognisant of it, the order is revocable. In the present case, to make the order irrevocable, *Ormerod Heyworth and Co.* should at least have promised *Royds and Co.* to pay them, in consideration of the order; then it might have been said that, as they had made themselves liable to *Royds and Co.* at the instance of *Hunt and Jenkinson*, these last could not alter the position of things by a revocation. But the defendants made their payment on the faith, not of the order, but of *Royds and Co.*'s guarantee. The order, therefore, was revocable, and revoked by the bankruptcy. If the goods were not sold before that event, they were the property of the assignees; if they had been previously sold, the assignees were entitled to the proceeds.

It cannot be contended that there was an equitable assignment of proceeds to *Royds and Co.*, as in *Hunt v. Mortimer (a)*; for there the borrowing and the appropriation of the particular fund for payment were parcels of one and the same contract. So, in *Row v. Dawson (b)*, the bankrupt had borrowed money, and made a draft in favour of the lenders, upon a fund in the exchequer to which he had a claim; and this was held good against the assignees, as an equitable assignment. There the money was partly due at the time of making the order. In the present case, *Ormerod Heyworth and Co.* had no fund when the letter of *September 28th* was written. They were to receive the proceeds of certain goods; but of what goods, and by what ship to arrive,

(a) 10 B. & C. 44.

(b) 1 Ves. sen. 331.

was unknown. They could not say that any whole cargo, or part of a particular cargo, was appropriated to the payment in question: they were only to pay, out of the surplus, generally, of some proceeds, a sum not exceeding 5000*l*. The case, in this respect, resembles *Carvalho v. Burn (a)*.

1838.

HUTCHINSON
against
HEYWORTH.

Crompton, contra. First, the letter of *September 28th* was not an order within the schedule of stat. 55 G. 3. c. 184. The object of that schedule was, that orders for the payment of money out of 'a particular fund that might or might not be available, or upon a contingency, which orders' before the statute were not considered as bills of exchange, should be placed upon that footing for the purposes of the act: but it appears from the several clauses that that provision was not meant to take effect where the instrument was not either made payable to the bearer or to order, or delivered to the payee or some person on his behalf. The order was to be something which should give a credit to the party bearing it. It is contended that the persons acting in this case as acceptors are the agents of the payee for the purpose of having the instrument put into their hands. But the letter here is not sent to the payees, or by them to the defendants; the writers send it to the defendants, who are to keep it as their own security. The payees could not have demanded it of the defendants, even after they had agreed to make the required payment. And, if it had been meant that a delivery to the acceptor should bring the order described within the clauses of the schedule, it can scarcely be supposed that the acceptor

(a) 4 B. & Ad. 382. S. C. (*Burn v. Carvalho*) in Error, 1 A. & E. 883.

1838.

HUTCHINSON
against
HEYWORTH.

would not have been mentioned. [*Littledale J.* Suppose a person in *London* wrote a letter to his banker, desiring him to send 100*l.* to some one in the country: would that be an order “delivered” according to the schedule?] It clearly would not. Nor, if he sent a letter of credit to his banker, would that be an order held by the banker on behalf of the payee. The conditional assent of the defendants to pay over the money, which was the only document received by *Royds and Co.*, does not fall within any of the requisitions of the schedule as to inland bills; but it may be inferred from the clauses respecting promissory notes that such an assent in writing, and the letters connected with it, would be subject to stamp duty as parts of an agreement. Those clauses exempt from duty all notes promising payment out of any particular fund which may or may not be available, or upon any condition or contingency which may or may not happen, “where the same shall not be made payable to the bearer or order, and also where the same shall be made payable to the bearer or to order, if the same shall amount to 20*l.*, or be indefinite.” And then it is added that “such of the notes and instruments here exempted from the duty on promissory notes shall nevertheless be liable to the duty which may attach thereon, *as agreements* or otherwise.” As to the cases. In *Emly v. Collins* (a) the paper mentioned a specific sum, and was delivered by the drawer to an agent of the plaintiff, and by him to the defendant, who promised to pay. It was substantially a bill within the statute. In *Firbank v. Bell* (b) the order was to pay 1500*l.* in bills (a case included in the enumeration of inland bills in the schedule); and the correspondence

(a) 6 *M. & S.* 144.(b) 1 *B. & Ald.* 36.

shewed

shewed that the instrument had reached the hands of the payees. In *Butts v. Swann* (a) the sum was specified, and the instrument made payable to order. *Jones v. Simpson* (b), where the instrument was held not liable to duty as a bill, comes nearer to the present case. That turned upon a statute (48 G. 3. c. 149.) which required that the instruments therein subjected to duty as bills should be drawn for a specified sum: the order was for no specific sum, but contained merely a direction to pay over the proceeds of a shipment; and it was, for that reason, held not to be a bill or order within the statute. [Coleridge J. You may say here that the amount to be paid over might not have been 40s.; then no duty would have been payable.] The uncertainty being such, how (as Abbott C. J. said in *Jones v. Simpson* (b)) could the duty be calculated? In *Crowfoot v. Gurney* (c), where the order was to pay J. S. and Sons "the balance due to me for building the *Baptist College Chapel*," the objection that a bill stamp was necessary does not seem to have been thought worth consideration by the Court.

Secondly, the three letters of 28th and 30th September constituted an agreement between *Hunt and Jenkinson*, *Ormerod Heyworth and Co.*, and *Royds and Co.*, that the proceeds in question, when accruing, should be received to the use of *Royds and Co.*; and they might have brought an action at law against *Ormerod Heyworth and Co.*, if they had not paid over the 5000*l.* when received. On the statement of this case the foreign houses must be considered as identical with that of *Ormerod Heyworth and Co.* In the letters addressed to these last by *Hunt and Jenkinson* the houses are spoken of as

1838.

HUTCHINSON
against
HEYWORTH.

(a) 2 Brod. & B. 78.

(b) 2 B. & C. 318.

(c) 9 Bing. 372.

1838.

HUTCHINSON
against
HEYWORTH.

"your foreign establishments." *Ormerod Heyworth and Co.* were entitled to have the proceeds of the sales returned through their hands: they were the agents; and *Hunt and Jenkinson* could not have got at the proceeds but through them. Then, under the arrangement contained in the three letters, *Ormerod Heyworth and Co.* were authorised by *Hunt and Jenkinson* to retain a certain part of the returns coming through their hands, for the use, and with the assent, of *Royds and Co.* Whether this constituted an equitable assignment or not, it was a binding agreement, and one in consideration of which *Royds and Co.* gave a guarantee against certain claims. The proceeds, therefore, when received by the defendants, were received to the use of *Royds and Co.* The bankrupt could not without fraud have attempted to revoke the disposition of these funds; neither, therefore, could the assignees do so. The case does not shew whether the goods were sold before or after the act of bankruptcy; it only appears that, after the proceeds had been received, the assignees gave the defendants notice not to pay. But, if the defendants were allowed to receive the proceeds at all, they received them under the agreement, and to the use of *Royds and Co.* The assent of *Ormerod Heyworth and Co.* to the arrangement proposed on *September 28th* distinguishes this case from *Williams v. Everett (a)* and *Yates v. Bell (b)*, and makes the judgments in those cases authorities here for the defendants.

But further, independently of any legal right, the transaction of *September 28th* and *30th* was an equitable assignment of the fund; and the assignees cannot claim

(a) 14 *East*, 582.

(b) 3 *B. & Ald.* 648. See *Baron v. Husband*, 4 *B. & Ald.* 611.; *Howell v. Batt*, 5 *B. & Ald.* 504.; *Lilly v. Hays*, 5 *A. & E.* 548.

what the bankrupt is not equitably entitled to. To make an equitable assignment valid, assent by the then holder of the fund is not necessary; *Tibbits v. George (a)*, *Burn v. Carvalho (b)*: even notice to him is not requisite for that purpose, but only to prevent the title of the assignees from attaching on the ground of apparent ownership; per *Parke J.* in *Hunt v. Mortimer (c)*, and *Vacher v. Cocks (d)*. And, at any rate, the foreign houses here were identical with that of *Ormerod Heyworth and Co.* for the purposes of assent and notice. The case, taken in that point of view, resembles *Hodgson v. Anderson (e)*. It is said, on the other side, that to render an appropriation of proceeds, like that now relied upon, irrevocable, the appropriation must have been part of the contract under which the debt was created; and to that point *Fisher v. Miller (g)* is cited. But it must be inferred from the judgments in that case that *Chesmer* (whose assignees the plaintiffs were) would not have been entitled to recall the security he had given, although the appropriation had been subsequent to the incurring of the debt. He had made the proceeds of a cargo answerable for his debt, and it was held that he could not revoke such appropriation to the prejudice of the lenders. *Row v. Dawson (h)*, *Burn v. Carvalho (b)*, and *Tibbits v. George (a)* do not bear out the argument, that the appropriation must have been part of the contract under which the debt arose. *Crowfoot v. Gurney (i)* is opposed to it. *Alderson J.* there refers to *Hodgson v. Anderson (e)* as deciding "that, although a creditor had a right to insist on payment to himself or to his appointee, yet, having once given an order for the payment

1838.

HUTCHINSON
against
HEYWORTH.

(a) 5 A. & E. 107.

(c) 10 B. & C. 47.

(e) 3 B. & C. 842.

(h) 1 Ves. sen. 331.

(b) 7 Sim. 109.

(d) 1 B. & Ad. 153.

(g) 1 Bing. 150.

(i) 9 Bing. 372.

1838.

MUTCHINSON
against
HETWORTH.

of his debt to a third person, he had no right to revoke that order, provided there was a pledge by the person, to whom the authority was given, that he would pay the debt according to the authority." In *Bailey v. Culverwell* (a) an order by a debtor, desiring brokers to sell goods of his in their hands, and apply the proceeds in paying the creditor, for whom also the brokers acted, was held a valid appropriation as against the debtor's assignees, he becoming bankrupt after the order, though it was urged that no credit had been obtained on such order, which had not been communicated to the creditor till after the bankruptcy. *Row v. Dawson* (b) shews that an equitable lien may be created upon part of a fund by an order like the present. In *Yeates v. Groves* (c) the order of a vendor, directing purchasers to pay a part of the purchase money to his creditor on account of an antecedent debt, was held to give a similar lien. *Burn v. Carvalho* (d) is a case of the same class; and there it was decided that the equitable title passed, though there was no assent by the holder of the fund. Assent, in such a case, would give the legal right: but the equitable right passes without it; and, if that has passed, and the produce of the fund has been received, it cannot be recovered back in an action for money had. Accordingly, *Patteson J.* asks, in *Tibbits v. George* (e), "Is there any authority for saying that a trustee can sue the cestui que trust for money had and received?" It is suggested here that the assignees were entitled to the goods, and therefore may bring this action for the proceeds. But, if the goods were existing in specie at the time of the bankruptcy, it is doubtful whether trover

(a) 8 B. & C. 448.

(b) 1 Ves. sen. 331.

(c) 1 Ves. jun. 280.

(d) 7 Sim. 109.

(e) 5 A. & E. 112.

would

would lie; and it does not appear that they were not sold before. At all events, the assignees should have countermanded the passing of the proceeds into the defendants' hands. It is no argument against the defendants, that they cannot point out any particular parcel of the cargoes upon which their right attaches: in an action of trover right must be shewn to the specific chattel; but there is no corresponding limitation where the action is for money had and received. *Tibbits v. George (a)* shews that the proceeds of a fund may be appropriated where no legal title is given to the fund itself. And in *Carvalho v. Burn (b)*, if the goods had been turned into money, and the amount paid over, the circumstances in other respects being the same as in that case, it is not clear that an action for money had and received would have been maintainable. In *Best v. Argles (c)* an action for money had and received was held to lie against a party claiming an equitable interest; but there, as is remarked in *Tibbits v. George (d)*, the equity was not clear. This last case also furnishes an answer to the objection that no notice was given to the parties holding the funds at the time of the agreement. The knowledge by the solicitor under the debtor's commission, which was there held sufficient notice, on the authority of *Smith v. Smith (e)*, was a much less complete information than the knowledge possessed here by *Ormerod Heyworth and Co.*, who at least were partners in the houses from which the proceeds in question were to be remitted. Even if their

1838.

HUTCHINSON
against
HEYWORTH.

(a) 5 A. & E. 107.

(b) 4 B. & Ad. 382. S. C. in Error (*Burn v. Carvalho*), 1 A. & E. 883.

(c) 2 Cro. & M. 394. S. C. 4 Tyr. 256.

(d) 5 A. & E. 116.

(e) 2 Cro. & M. 231. S. C. 4 Tyr. 52.

1838. house and the foreign ones are not to be considered identical, the knowledge of any partner in one of those houses was the knowledge of the firm.

HUTCHINSON
against
HEYWORTH.

Cresswell, in reply. First, as to the stamp. It is no objection that the agreement does not shew the minimum that might be paid over; for, by the schedule, a stamp duty is imposed on bills "for the payment of any sum of money out of any particular fund which may or may not be available." The act, therefore, contemplates stamping even where the bill may be wholly unproductive. As to the document not having been delivered; the schedule, in the clause just cited, speaks of bills, drafts, or orders, "payable to the bearer, or to order, or if the same shall be delivered to the payee," or some person on his behalf; the intention being, that a duty, as upon bills, should be imposed, where the instrument gave the payee a control over the fund. The whole question here, as to the stamp, is, whether *Hunt* and *Jenkinson's* letter of *September 28th* did give *Royds and Co.* such a control. The words *or order*, which occurred in a similar letter in *Butts v. Swann (a)*, are not found here; but they are material only as shewing the right of control given to the third party over the sum to be paid; and that sufficiently appears in this case from the other terms of the letter. [*Patteson J.* In an earlier part of the schedule the duty is imposed on bills payable to the bearer or to order, or delivered to the payee, without reference to any fund.] There the payee has to rely on the personal credit of the party to whom the order is addressed; but, whether the party benefited acquires a

(a) 2 B. & B. 78.

claim upon a person or a fund, the instrument operating to give such claim is a bill. Here, if the letter made an effectual disposition of the fund, it was a bill; if it did not, the fund belongs to the assignees.

1898.

HUTCHINSON
against
HEYWORTH.

It is contended that the three letters of *September* 28th and 30th constitute an agreement. But the reasoning of Lord *Ellenborough* in *Firbank v. Bell* (a) applies. "There is nothing to which the name of an agreement can be given if you do not pray in aid the order; that is the only thing by which the bankrupt is personally implicated; for he is not a party to the other letters. The order alone affects the bankrupt, and that amounts to nothing more than an order for payment." No new consideration arose, as between *Royds and Co.* and *Hunt and Jenkinson*, from the last two letters. *Royds and Co.* could not, in an action against *Ormerod Heyworth and Co.*, have declared that they, in consideration of the order, promised to pay *Royds and Co.*; the only consideration between these latter parties was the guarantee. To make a binding and irrevocable agreement, according to *Scott v. Porcher* (b), all the persons should be parties to one and the same agreement. In *Wharton v. Walker* (c) one *Lythgoe*, being indebted to the plaintiff, give him an order on the defendant, *Lythgoe's* tenant, to pay the plaintiff out of the next rent. Plaintiff sent the order to defendant, but had no direct communication with him; and, in the next settlement of rent with *Lythgoe*, defendant took credit for the sum mentioned in the order, which he then produced, undertaking to pay plaintiff the amount. This Court held that the plaintiff could not recover it as money had and

(a) 1 B. & Ald. 36.

(b) 3 Mer. 652.

(c) 4 B. & C. 163.

1838.

HUTCHINSON
against
HEYWORTH.

received by the defendant to his use; and one ground stated by *Bayley J.* was: "If by an agreement between the three parties, the plaintiff had undertaken to look to the defendant and not to his original debtor, that would have been binding, and the plaintiff might have maintained an action on the agreement, but in order to give him that right of action, there must be an extinguishment of the intermediate debt. No such bargain was made between the parties in this case. Upon the defendant's refusing to pay the plaintiff, the latter might still sue *Lythgoe*, and this brings the case within *Cuxon v. Chadley*" (a). And in these reasons *Holroyd J.* and *Littledale J.* agreed. Here, if the arrangement had been such that the debt of *Hunt and Jenkinson to Royds and Co.* had been discharged, the transaction might perhaps have been an agreement among all the parties, on good consideration. [*Patteson J.* In *Wharton v. Walker* (b), if the defendant had paid the plaintiff it would have been a good payment as against *Lythgoe*, unless he could have revoked his assent. In no case of an equitable assignment does the debtor come under a legal obligation to pay the assignee; but, if he does pay, such payment is good.] In *Hodgson v. Anderson* (c), cited on the other side, there was an assignment of an existing debt, and a consideration for it, time being given to the assignor; and the debtor's agents promised to pay: there the order to pay over could not be revoked. Here, at the time of giving the order, there was no debt in existence which could be assigned by it. It is contended that the houses of *Ormerod Heyworth and Co.*, and the foreign houses, must be considered as identical:

(a) 3 B. & C. 591.

(b) 4 B. & C. 163.

(c) 3 B. & C. 842.

but

but the case does not shew that. There was no privity of contract between *Royds and Co.* and the foreign houses. *Royds and Co.* were to be paid out of the proceeds of the goods when sold; the goods themselves were not bound by that agreement, in the hands of the foreign firms. Had the goods remained in specie, they would have passed to the assignees subject to any lien of the firm which held them. It lay, therefore, on the defendants to shew that at the time of the agreement the goods had been sold and the proceeds received, so that the fund to be assigned had, at that period, an existence. It is said that, because *Ormerod Heyworth and Co.* were allowed to receive the proceeds, the appropriation of them was not revoked; but a revocation does take place if, when parties have been ordered to receive a sum for one purpose, that order is countermanded, and they are told to receive it for another. [*Patteson J.* It does not appear that these funds could have been prevented from coming to the defendants' hands. Their course of dealing was to account for the proceeds of the sales, "after repaying themselves thereout their commission, advances, and other charges." The assignees could not interfere with that. *Coleridge J.* When the proceeds of sales were received by the foreign houses, was not there a subsisting debt?] Not from the defendants: they were not responsible for those houses. They did not act under a *del credere* commission. The principle of *Crowfoot v. Gurney (a)*, and other cases of the same class, is explained by the Court in *Best v. Argles (b)*. To make a good equitable assignment there ought to be a sale and purchase of the fund for a con-

1838.

HUTCHINSON
against
HEYWORTH.

(a) 9 Bing. 372.

(b) 2 Cro. & M. 394. S. C. 4 Tyr. 256.

1838.

HUTCHINSON
against
HEYWORTH.

temporaneous consideration, as in *Hunt v. Mortimer* (a) and *Tibbits v. George* (b). Here no such fact is shewn. It does not appear that *Royds and Co.* bound themselves, under the supposed agreement, to give any new credit to *Hunt and Jenkinson*. [Coleridge J. How was the bankrupt *Streather* more discharged in *Crowfoot v. Gurney* (c) than *Hunt and Jenkinson* here?] *Tindal* C. J. thought, in that case, that there was consideration enough for the assignment, as *Solly*, to whom it was made, appeared, from the time of the order, to have made no application to *Streather*, and looked to the defendant only. And there the assent by the defendant was, simply, to pay the balance mentioned in the order, in consideration of being discharged from his debt to the bankrupt: here *Ormerod Heyworth and Co.* undertook to pay in consideration of a guarantee.

Cur. adv. vult.

Lord DENMAN C. J. now delivered the judgment of the Court.

There are two questions in this case. First, whether the letter of *Hunt and Jenkinson* to the defendants, of the date of *September 28th*, 1831, required the stamp imposed by 55 G. 3. c. 184., as an order for the payment of money: if it did, then it was not admissible in evidence; and, as that letter was the authority for paying the 5000*l.* to *Royds and Co.*, there must be judgment for the plaintiffs. Secondly, supposing that letter did not require a stamp as an order for the payment of money, whether the authority contained in it was revoked by the bankruptcy of *Hunt*, and the notice from the as-

(a) 10 B. & C. 44.

(b) 5 A. & E. 107.

(c) 9 Bing. 372.

signees :

signees : if it was so revoked, in that case also there must be judgment for the plaintiffs.

1838.

HUTCHINSON
against
HETWORTH.

As to the first question, the clause in the schedule of 55 G. 3. c. 184. applicable to this is, "all bills, drafts or orders, for the payment of any sum of money out of any particular fund which may or may not be available, or upon any condition or contingency which may or may not be performed or happen, if the same shall be made payable to the bearer, or to order, or if the same shall be delivered to the payee or some person on his or her behalf." Then, in determining whether it be an order for the payment of money within the meaning of the schedule, the first thing to be considered is, whether, as it is not an order to pay a distinct sum of money, but only the proceeds of funds provided they do not exceed 5000*l.*, it falls within the act. In *Jones v. Simpson (a)* the order was to sell certain goods which were stated to be of about the value of 2000*l.*, and to pay the proceeds. The Court was quite clear that it did not fall within the description in the schedule as to the liability to stamp duty, because there was no sum mentioned on which the duty could attach ; and, if the question in this case had arisen upon the letter of 23d *September*, in which there is no precise sum mentioned, that letter, according to the case of *Jones v. Simpson (a)*, just mentioned, would not have required any stamp. But in the letter of 28th *September*, 1831, there is a sum of 5000*l.* which may be paid ; and, though it might not necessarily be so much, yet as, in the schedule as to inland bills, a duty is imposed "where the total amount of the money thereby made payable shall be specified therein, or can be ascertained

(a) 2 B. & C. 318.

therefrom,"

1838.

HUTCHINSON
against
HEYWORTH.

therefrom," we think that the case arising out of the letter of 28th of *September* differs from *Jones v. Simpson (a)*, and that, if on other accounts it be an order for the payment of money within the meaning of the schedule, a stamp duty in respect of 5000*l.* would attach upon it.

But the schedule as to orders for payment of money requires that, in order to make a stamp necessary, they should be made payable to the bearer or to order, or be delivered to the payee or some person on his behalf. In the cases of *Emly v. Collins (b)*, *Firbank v. Bell (c)*, and *Butts v. Swann (d)*, no question was made as to these qualifications, nor was it necessary: for in *Emly v. Collins (b)* the order was delivered to an agent of the payee; in *Firbank v. Bell (c)* the order appears to have been delivered to the payee, inasmuch as the payee is stated to have sent a copy to the person to whom the order was addressed; and in *Butts v. Swann (d)* the order was made payable to order. But the present letter does not make the money payable to the bearer or to order, and is not delivered to the payee.

Then is this document delivered to any person on behalf of the payee within the meaning of the schedule? Now the letter containing the authority to pay is delivered to the defendants; and then is that a delivery to them on behalf of the payees Messrs. *Royds and Co.*? So far it is a delivery to the defendants for the benefit of the payees, and the defendants may be trustees for them; but it was not meant that the defendants should hand over the document to the payees; they were to act upon it as they might think right, and according to what it was expected they should do; but, when they did

(a) 2 *B. & C.* 318.(b) 6 *M. & S.* 144.(c) 1 *B. & Ald.* 36.(d) 2 *Brod. & B.* 78.

act upon it by any promise or undertaking, that did not constitute a delivery of the document itself to the payees, but the defendants were to keep the document themselves, not as agents to the payees, but for their own security, to prove, when they should pay the money, that it was by authority of the persons who gave the order that they had done so. The giving the undertaking by the defendants to Messrs. *Royds and Co.* could not be coupled with the letter of *Hunt and Jenkinson* to the defendants, so as to make a stamp necessary, because the question of a stamp must be decided by the instrument when it is first issued, and not by what may happen afterwards: and we think that the delivery to the payee, or some person on his behalf, means a delivery, either personally to the payee or to some agent or representative of his, and does not mean the person to whom the order is addressed; and consequently this document, which is addressed and sent to the defendants, is not such an instrument as under the part of the schedule in question requires a stamp.

Then, having come to the conclusion that this document did not require the stamp contended for, the remaining question is, whether the authority to pay to the extent of 5000*l.* was countermanded by the bankruptcy of *Hunt and Jenkinson*, and the notice from the assignees.

If the case had stood merely upon the authority in the letter of the 28th *September*, without more, and the defendants, or *Hunt and Jenkinson*, or Messrs. *Royds and Co.*, had not done any thing more, and the money had been paid upon it, we think the authority to pay would have been revoked by the bankruptcy and the notice from the assignees: but that is not the state of things

1838.

HUTCHINSON
against
HEYWORTH.

1838.

HUTCHINSON
against
HEYWORTH.

things as they exist; and the whole of the circumstances must be considered.

The first document is the letter of 23d *September* 1831 by *Hunt and Jenkinson* to the defendants, authorising them to pay money to Messrs. *Royds*. Upon the receipt of this, the defendants write to *Hunt and Jenkinson* a letter which they either had sent or proposed to send to Messrs. *Royds*; but *Hunt and Jenkinson* think it is not satisfactory, and they return it to the defendants, and revoke the authority contained in the letter of the 23d *September*, and send the letter in question of the 28th *September*, which they wish to be acted upon: and the defendants, upon receipt of that, write to Messrs. *Royds*, giving an undertaking to comply with the letter of *Hunt and Jenkinson* on being guaranteed by Messrs. *Royds*; and then, in answer, Messrs. *Royds and Co.* give the defendants the guarantee which they asked for. It appears, therefore, that all the three parties, that is, *Hunt and Jenkinson* as one of the parties, the defendants as another, and *Royds and Co.* a third, concurred in the arrangement; and that *Hunt and Jenkinson* were aware that the defendants meant to require the guarantee of Messrs. *Royds*, inasmuch as the defendants' letter to Messrs. *Royds* of the 23d *September*, requiring the guarantee, was contained in the letter of that date from the defendants to *Hunt and Jenkinson*. It appears, therefore, on the whole, that *Hunt and Jenkinson* being indebted to their bankers, Messrs. *Royds and Co.*, and, in the common course of things, expecting further advances, or else a forbearance of pressure for the payment of what was due, authorise the defendants to pay money out of certain funds to the extent of 5000*l.* to Messrs. *Royds*, in liquidation of the whole or part of their debt. The
defendants

defendants give to Messrs. *Royds* an undertaking to do so, but conditionally that a guarantee of indemnity shall be given by them; and which guarantee Messrs. *Royds* do give, and accept the undertaking of defendants. The whole of this, taken together, appears to us to constitute an appropriation of funds to the extent of 5000*l.* to Messrs. *Royds*, or else to an equitable assignment of these funds; but, whether it be an appropriation or an equitable assignment, it is not in either case in our opinion revoked by the bankruptcy of *Hunt*.

But it is contended by the plaintiffs that an arrangement of this sort ought to form part of the original transaction. But there does not appear any original transaction to which this can be referred: the dealing between *Hunt and Jenkinson* and the defendants began twelve years before 1831: when it began between Messrs. *Royds* and *Hunt and Jenkinson*, does not appear: but the dealings of *Hunt and Jenkinson* with these respective houses had been quite distinct, and had nothing to do with each other. The transaction in question was the first in which all the parties were originally concerned. It is said there is no consideration for this arrangement: but we think there is; for *Hunt and Jenkinson* were indebted to Messrs. *Royds* in upwards of 5000*l.*; and the latter, on receiving this contingent security for 5000*l.*, of the probability of realising which they would no doubt inquire, would be more inclined to give additional credit to *Hunt and Jenkinson*, and the latter would be less likely to be proceeded against for the recovery of the money by Messrs. *Royds and Co.*

Then it is said that the defendants did not pay this money on the authority of *Hunt and Jenkinson*, but on the guarantee of Messrs. *Royds*. But, though they would

1838.

HUTCHINSON
against
HEYWORTH.

1898.

HUTCHINSON
against
HEYWORTH.

not have paid it without the guarantee of Messrs. *Royds*, they paid it principally on the authority of Messrs. *Hunt and Jenkinson*, and in fact they paid it on both together. It is said also that, as to some of the cases, there was a specific ascertained debt to which the appropriation or assignment of the funds was to be applied. But we think it is not necessary that the debt to which the appropriation was to be made should be ascertained. The funds to be appropriated were not to exceed 5000*l.*; and, if the debt due to *Royds* was less, the money to be paid to them would be less: but it can make no difference whether the debt due to *Royds* was a specific sum of 1000*l.* or any indefinite sum, but so that whatever their debt was they should get no more than 5000*l.*

A great many cases have been cited on the argument in this, and we may refer to *Row v. Dawson* (a), *Yeates v. Groves* (b), *Fisher v. Miller* (c), *Hodgson v. Anderson* (d), *Wharton v. Walker* (e), *Fairlie v. Denton* (g), *Bailey v. Culverwell* (h), *Hunt v. Mortimer* (i), *Crowfoot v. Gurney* (k), *Tibbits v. George* (l), *Smith v. Smith* (m), *Williams v. Everett* (n), *Carvalho v. Burn* (o), *Scott v. Porcher* (p). Not, indeed, that any of these cases are precisely the same as the present; but the principles on which they were decided, we think, apply to the view we have taken of this case. In *Carvalho v. Burn* (o), first

(a) 1 *Ves. sen.* 331.(b) 1 *Ves. jun.* 280.(c) 1 *Bing.* 150.(d) 3 *B. & C.* 842.(e) 4 *B. & C.* 163.(g) 8 *B. & C.* 395.(h) 8 *B. & C.* 448.(i) 10 *B. & C.* 44.(k) 9 *Bing.* 372.(l) 5 *A. & E.* 107.(m) 2 *Cro. & M.* 231. *S. C.* 4 *Tyr.* 52.(n) 14 *East*, 582.(o) 4 *B. & Ad.* 382. *S. C.* (*Burn v. Carvalho*) in *Error*, 1 *A. & E.* 883. *S. C.* (*Burn v. Carvalho*) in *Chancery*, 7 *Sim.* 109.(p) 3 *Mer.* 652.

in this Court and afterwards in the Exchequer Chamber, the assignees of the bankrupt were held entitled to recover under circumstances bearing some resemblance to the present. But that was an action of trover for goods; and the two courts of law held that the assignees had the legal property in the goods, leaving the equitable rights of the parties to be considered in a court of equity: and in the same case in *Simons* (a) the Vice-Chancellor, on demurrer to a bill in equity, seems to have considered that the defendant at law, who stood in the same situation as the defendants here, was entitled to the benefit of the arrangement against the assignees of the bankrupt: and that decision of the Vice-Chancellor's was afterwards confirmed by the Lords Commissioners (b).

In the case of *Scott v. Porcher* (c) Sir William Grant, Master of the Rolls, says, "The case is stripped of almost every circumstance that has ever been relied upon as constituting an irrevocable appropriation;" and, amongst other things, there had been no communication made to *Porcher* (who stood in the same relative situation as *Royds*) of the directions that had been given. But here every thing has been done that could be; and it seems, from the whole of the remarks made by the Master of the Rolls, that under circumstances like the present he would have been of opinion with the defendants.

Upon the whole of this case, then, we are of opinion that a nonsuit should be entered.

Nonsuit to be entered.

(a) 7 *Sim.* 109.

(b) So stated in 7 *Sim.* 120, note. The reporters are informed that the case came before Lord Cottenham C. on appeal in 1839, and that his Lordship affirmed the decree of the Vice-Chancellor.

(c) 3 *Mer.* 652.

1838.

HUTCHINSON
against
HEYWORTH.

1838.

IN THE EXCHEQUER CHAMBER.

(Error from the Queen's Bench.)

*Wednesday,
January 9th.*TYSON *against* SMITH.

In trespass for breaking and entering plaintiff's close, and erecting stalls, booths, &c., there, defendant justified under a custom that, at fairs holden at certain times of the year, on some part of the commons and waste of a manor, to be named by the lord of the manor (the locus in quo being parcel of such commons and waste, and named by the lord), every liege subject exercising the trade of a victualler might enter at the time of the fairs, and, for the more conveniently carrying on his said trade, erect a booth &c.,

and continue the same for a reasonable time after the fairs, paying 2d. to the lord.

Held, that the custom was reasonable, and the plea a good justification in trespass brought by the owner of the soil.

And that the word "victualler" was to be understood in the sense which it bore at the time of the plea pleaded.

TRESPASS (a) for (among other trespasses) breaking and entering plaintiff's close, treading down the grass, and placing and erecting stalls, posts, booths and tables on the said close, and continuing them without the leave &c.

Third plea, as to the trespasses above specified, that, from time whereof &c., on certain days (viz. on *Monday* next after the feast day of *Pentecost*, and afterwards on each alternate *Monday* in each and every year, until the feast of *All Souls*), fairs, for the buying and selling of all kinds of goods, wares and merchandises, have been, and of right ought to have been, and still of right ought to be, holden on the commons and waste grounds of the manor, lordship, or forest of *Westward*, in the county of *Cumberland*, that is to say, on some part thereof appointed for that purpose, from time to time, by the lord of the said manor, &c., for the time being. And that, from time whereof &c., there hath been, and of right &c., and still of right &c., an ancient and laudable custom within the said manor, &c., viz. that every liege subject of this

(a) The declaration and third plea are set out at rather more length in *Tyson v. Smith*, 6 A. & E. 745.

realm exercising the trade or calling of a victualler, at a reasonable time before the *Monday* next after the feast day of *Pentecost*, in each and every year, hath, during all the time aforesaid, been used and accustomed to enter, and of right &c., and still of right &c., into and upon that part of the said commons or waste grounds, from time to time appointed for holding the said fairs by the lord of the said manor, &c., and, for the more conveniently carrying on his said trade or calling, to erect a booth and stall, and to put and place posts and tables there, and to keep and continue the said booth, stall, posts, and tables so erected, &c., from thenceforth until a reasonable time after the last of the said fairs, yielding and paying therefore to the lord the sum of *2d.*, when lawfully demanded. Averment, that the close in which &c., at the times when &c., was parcel of the said commons or waste grounds, and, before the first of the said several times when &c., had been appointed by the Earl of *Egremont*, the lord for the time being, as the place for holding the said fairs &c.: and the plaintiff, at the said times when &c., held and occupied the close in which &c., as tenant thereof to the said earl &c. Wherefore defendant, being a liege subject &c., and exercising the trade or calling of a victualler, for the purpose of erecting a booth &c. (justification under the custom).

Fifth plea, as to the same trespasses, that, from time whereof &c. until the making of the award after mentioned, fairs, for the buying and selling of all kinds of goods, &c., have been, and of right ought to have been, holden on the commons or waste grounds of the said manor, lordship, or forest, viz. on some part thereof appointed for that purpose from time to time by the

1838.

 Tyson
 against
 Smith.

1838.

Tyson
against
Smith.

lord of the said manor, &c., on &c. (stating the days as in the third plea) : that, from time whereof &c. until the making of the said award, there had been, and of right ought &c., an ancient and laudable custom, used and approved of within the said manor, &c. (setting out a custom corresponding with that in the third plea). That afterwards, and before any of the said times when &c., to wit 6th May, 51 G. 3. (1811) (a), an act passed for enclosing lands in the said manor, lordship, or forest, by which commissioners were appointed for setting out, dividing, allotting, and enclosing the commons and waste grounds in the said act mentioned, according to the rules &c. contained therein and in the General Inclosure Act, stat. 41 G. 3. U.K. c. 109., and it was enacted that the commissioners should set out and appoint unto the Earl of *Egremont*, his heirs and assigns, lord or lords of the said manor, &c., for the time being, in some proper and convenient place within the said manor, &c., a sufficient quantity of land (not exceeding forty acres) off and from the said commons and waste grounds, for the purpose of keeping and holding fairs thereon annually, according to ancient custom; and, subject thereto, the herbage of the said land so set out should belong to, and be enjoyed by, such person or persons, and in such manner, &c., as the commissioners should appoint: averment that the commissioners, by their award, in pursuance of the act, set out and appointed to the said Earl of *E.*, his heirs and assigns, lord or lords of the said manor &c., for the time being, in a proper and convenient place within the said manor, &c., situate &c., forty acres, off and from the said

(a) Stat. 51 G. 3. c. liii. (local and personal, public).

commons and waste grounds, for the purpose of keeping and holding fairs thereon annually, according to ancient custom, of which forty acres the close in which &c., at the times when &c., was, and is, parcel: averment that, from the time of the making the said award hitherto, every liege subject of this realm exercising the trade or calling of a victualler, at a reasonable time before the *Monday* &c., hath been used &c. (as in the third plea, only stating the entry to be on the close in which &c., being parcel of the forty acres awarded for the purpose of holding fairs), and, for the more convenient carrying on his said trade or calling, to erect a booth &c. (as in the third plea): wherefore the said defendant, being a liege subject &c. (Justification under the right claimed in this plea).

The replication traversed the existence of the customs set forth in the third and fifth pleas. Upon these traverses issue was joined; and several other issues in fact were also joined. On the trial before Lord *Abinger* C.B., at the *Cumberland* Summer assizes, 1835, a verdict was found for the defendant on the issues upon the traverses to the third and fifth pleas, and for the plaintiff on all the other issues. A rule was obtained in the Queen's Bench to enter judgment for the plaintiff, non obstante veredicto, which was discharged in *Easter* term, 1837 (a). Judgment having been entered in that Court for the defendant, error was brought in the Exchequer Chamber.

The case was argued in this vacation, 3d *December*,

(a) See the argument and judgment, *Tyson v. Smith*, 6 A. & E. 745. In that report the issue on the third plea only is said to have been found for the defendant; and this was the assumption on which the judgment proceeded. It will be seen, by the judgment in the present case, that the difference does not affect the principle of the decision.

1838.

 TYSON
against
SMITH.

1838. 1838, before *Tindal C. J., Bosanquet, Coltman and Vaughan Js., Parke, Alderson and Gurney Bs.*

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 TYSON
 against
 SMITH.

W. H. Watson, for the plaintiff in error (the plaintiff below). The custom set out in the third and fifth pleas is bad. First, the description of persons by whom it is to be enjoyed is unlimited; for the words "every liege subject of this realm exercising the trade or calling of a victualler" would comprehend any one who chose to sell victuals. The word "victuallers" is now ordinarily applied to one who keeps a public-house: but that restriction of the meaning is modern, as appears from the uses of the word in *Com. Dig. Justices of Peace*, (B 87.), (B 89.). In 1 stat. 13 R. 2. c. 8. the word is used for all persons supplying meat or drink, and answers to the expression "sellers of all manner of victuals" in stat. 23 Ed. 3. c. 6. In stat. 7 R. 2. c. 11. vintners and victuallers are separately mentioned. The custom here is not even limited to those who have exercised the trade for any given time. [*Parke B.* No one could enter without being a victualler: it seems, therefore, that the custom is limited to those who have already exercised the trade.] That is still too large a class: any one might begin the trade the moment before entering. If the meaning be that any one may use the land for the purpose of the trade, then the plea is bad; for that right would be not by custom, but general law, supposing it to exist at all. In *Fitch v. Rawling* (a) (where a custom for all persons, for the time being, being in a parish, to exercise lawful games on the soil of an individual, was held bad) *Buller J.* said, "How

(a) 2 H. Bl. 393.

that

that which may be claimed by all the inhabitants of *England* can be the subject of a custom, I cannot conceive. Customs must in their nature be confined to individuals of a particular description, and what is common to all mankind, can never be claimed as a custom."

A plea of a custom among merchants throughout *England*, that one merchant may assign to another the King's license to lade wine in a strange ship, is bad; the right alleged being by common law, if at all, and not by custom; *Bro. Abr. Customes*, 59. (a). Here, it is true, the custom is to be exercised only in a particular place; but, as it is to be exercised, practically, by all the liege subjects, the objection applies. [*Bosanquet J.* Where the owner of a soil is entitled to toll traverse, any one may go.] That is from a qualified dedication to the public by the owner of the soil; it is not like a custom: and, if the right here be treated as analogous to an easement, the plea is bad. A right in the occupiers of a close to use a way cannot be laid as a custom, but must be prescribed for; *Baker v. Brereman* (b). It is true that in the old books there occasionally appears a confusion between prescription and custom; for sometimes the word custom is applied to a right to profit à prendre in the soil of another, which must be prescribed for. A way of necessity to go to a church, or to a market, is matter of prescription: so is a right for inhabitants of a vill to dance in the soil of an individual, such as was pleaded in *Abbot v. Weekly* (c). It has been supposed that a custom was claimed for the men of *Kent*, after fishing, to dig in the land adjoining the sea, and pitch stakes for hanging their nets to dry; *Bro. Abr. Cus-*

1838.

 TYSON
against
SMITH.

(a) 7 *Vin. Abr.* 175. *Custom*, (P), pl. 5. (b) *Cro. Car.* 418.

(c) 1 *Lev.* 176.

1838.

 TYSON
 against
 SMITH.

tomes, 46. But, on reference to the *Year Book, Mich.* 8 Ed. 4. 18 B. pl. 90., which is the authority cited in *Brooke*, it is clear that the decision there was not on a custom but on a common law right. [*Alderson B.* It is treated as a custom in the judgment of *Holroyd J.*, in *Blundell v. Catterall (a)*, which is one of the ablest judgments ever pronounced in *Westminster Hall*.] It certainly is so treated, both by *Holroyd J.* and by *Hale (b)*. But *Choke C. J.* of C. P. says that the custom cannot be good, because it is against common law to prescribe to dig in the soil of another, though, he says, there are other *customs used throughout all the land* which are legal. *Littleton J.* says that a custom which runs through the whole land is common law; but that the alleged custom in question is against reason, because under it the whole meadow might be destroyed. *Danby J.* says that fishermen may justify going on the land adjoining the sea, because the fishery is for the common weal, and therefore, he says, this is common law. And *Choke C. J.* afterwards adds that, as every one may fish in the sea of common right, so perhaps, at ebb tide, digging between the high and low water marks may be justified. It is clear that the whole discussion was upon the general right (c). *Holroyd J.* goes no farther than to lay down that such a right, if supportable at all, must rest upon a particular custom; that was enough to shew that the case did not bear out the plea in *Blundell v. Catterall (a)*, which was on the

(a) 5 B. & Ald. 268. See p. 296, 297. (b) *De Port. Mar.* 86.

(c) It seems that the general right came into question in consequence of an objection taken to the plea, that it laid the right in the men of *Kent* generally, so as to amount to an assertion of a general common law right; whence it was inferred that the plea would fail unless such general right existed.

common law. In *Brooke's Abridgment* many rights are called customs which are by common law; such as the right to turn a plough upon the headland, which is matter of general law, per *Brian C. J.* of *C. P.* (a). "A custom which may be general, and extend to all the subjects in *England*, and is not warranted by, but contrary to the common law, is void;" 7 *Vin. Abr.* 189. *Customs*, (H), pl. 30. (b). Further, the custom, as here set out, is incompatible with the existence of the fair. From 2 *Inst.* 219, 220., it appears that fairs were considered to be of great importance for the purpose of affording the means of selling and purchasing. The owner himself could grant for stalls only so much soil as would leave room for the market; *Rex v. Burdett* (c). But, as this custom is pleaded, stalls might be erected to any extent. It was said, in the argument below, that the Court would intend that the use would be reasonable; but such an answer might be given in every case of unreasonable custom. A plea of approvement under the statute of *Merton*, 20 *H. 3.* c. 4., must shew that pasture was left for the commoners. And a custom for the lord of the manor to grant leases of the waste of the manor without restriction is bad; *Badger v. Ford* (d), *Arlett v. Ellis* (e). So a prescription for common appurtenant sans nombre, not limited to cattle levant and couchant, is bad on general demurrer; notes (4) and (k) to *Earl of Manchester v. Vale* (g), *Potter v. North* (h). After verdict it might be intended that the cattle had been proved to be levant and couchant; but here the

1838.

 TYSON
against
SMITH.

(a) *Bro. Abr. Customs*, 51. Citing *Yearb. Pasch.* 21 *Ed. 4.* fol. 28 *B.* pl. 23. See *Yearb. Pasch.* 22 *Ed. 4.* fol. 8 *B.* pl. 24. 7 *Vin. Abr.* 174, *Custom*, (P), pl. 4. *Ib.* 183. *Customs*, (F), pl. 1.

(b) Citing *Sherborn v. Bostock*, *Fitzgib.* 51. (c) 1 *Ld. Raym.* 148.

(d) 3 *B. & Ald.* 153.

(e) 7 *B. & C.* 346.

(g) 1 *Wms. Saund.* 28 a.

(h) 1 *Saund.* 352.

custom

1838.

 TYSON
 against
 SMITH.

custom must be bad or good as set out on the record. In *The Mayor, &c. of Northampton v. Ward* (a) the objection urged against the present custom was applied successfully to the existence of a common law right to erect a stall in a market. Further, the time is claimed too largely. A reasonable time before and after the fair is beyond what can be warranted by custom. And, at any rate, such a custom cannot be good as against the owner of the soil. The right to go on the land of another is an easement. This is in the nature of a profit à prendre, which cannot be claimed by custom; *Grimstead v. Marlowe* (b). The land is broken to fix the posts; the owner loses his land, and the consequence arises which was suggested by *Littleton J.* in *Yearb. Mich.* 8 Ed. 4. 18 B. pl. 30., that all the use of the land might be taken from the owner: for this there must, at least, be a prescription. It may perhaps be contended here that the record does not shew any digging in the soil: but it shews, at any rate, as complete an exclusion from the land as that would. In fact, however, the language of the declaration clearly implies a breaking of the soil. Rights to be exercised in the soil of another are confined to the inhabitants of the particular district within which the right is to be exercised. It is true that a copyholder may claim common within the manor by custom, not being able to prescribe for it by reason of the feebleness of his estate: but, out of the manor, he cannot claim by custom, and must prescribe in the name of his lord; note (11) to *Potter v. North* (c). *Taylor v. Devey* (d) is an instance in which a custom was

(a) 1 Wils. 107. S. C. 2 Str. 1238.

(b) 4 T. R. 717. See *Blewett v. Tregonning*, 3 A. & E. 554. *Gateward's Case*, 6 Rep. 59 b.

(c) 1 Wms. Soud. 349.

(d) 7 A. & E. 409.

held

held bad because too large a right was claimed in alieno solo. It was said, in *Fitch v. Rawling* (a), that there might be a right, by custom, to water cattle at a watering place: but *Pain v. Patrick* (b), which is referred to for this, does not warrant the doctrine. It is important to keep in view the distinction between a claim to set up stalls, on paying stallage, and a claim to enter the land for the purposes of the fair. Tolls are not necessarily incident to a fair, though by custom or charter they may be claimable by the lord: but stallage is a right in the owner of the soil, not in the character of lord of the fair, to take compensation for the use of his land; and such stalls cannot be erected, merely as incidental to the fair, without license from the owner of the soil. In *The Mayor, &c. of Northampton v. Ward* (c), *Lee C. J.* said, "A market might not improperly be compared to a parish church, whither all the parishioners have a right to go to hear divine service, but have not liberty to furnish themselves with pews without the appointment of the ordinary; and the reason of the law being so, is for avoiding confusion and disorder in public meetings and assemblies; and that no case had been cited, nor could he find any in the books, to shew that a man, coming to a market, had a right to erect a stall without license from the owner of the soil." Where a fair is granted to one and his heirs on land which is borough English, the stallage will go to the youngest son, but a fair to the common law heir; *Heddy v. Welhouse* (d). This shews that a custom cannot be reasonable which would enable those using the fair to exert a right against one who may be owner of the soil and not lord of the fair.

1838.

TYSON
against
SMITH.

(a) 2 H. Bl. 395.

(b) 3 Mod. 294.

(c) 1 Wils. 107. 3. C. 2 Str. 1238.

(d) Moore, 474.

1838.

TYSON
against
SMITH.

The judgment below shews no ground for the decision. It is there said that there was an absence of authority for the argument on behalf of the plaintiff: but it appears that numerous authorities were adduced which, in principle, shewed the invalidity of the custom. It is said also, that the description of victuallers is sufficiently definite. [*Bosanquet J.* Must we not take it that the word is used in the sense which it bore at the time of pleading the plea?] If the word be confined to its modern statutable sense, the custom, which is laid as immemorial, cannot exist. It is also said that the owner may be excluded from his own soil by a reasonable custom: but no such custom would be reasonable.

Cresswell for the defendant in error (the defendant below). It appears by the fifth plea that the legislature has recognised the market, with the custom attached to it. The Court, after verdict, will hold the custom good, if it be capable of any explanation which will make it legal. It does not follow, from there being now no apparent reason for a custom, that there never was: this was said in *Hix v. Gardiner (a)*, where Lord *Coke* cited the maxim *qui rationem in omnibus quærit, rationem destruit*. In *Cocksedge v. Fanshaw (b)* Lord *Mansfield* adopted a similar principle. It is said that the custom here is unrestrained. But it is confined to a particular class, victuallers. The parties must be victuallers before they exercise the right. It is said that any one may become a victualler: but the same objection might be made to almost any limitation, as inhabitants of a town. It is also objected that the custom is bad as against the lord. But the lord has a recompense, the sufficiency of which cannot be discussed by the Court. Besides, the

(a) 2 *Bulstr.* 195.

(b) 1 *Doug.* 132.

defendants

defendants do not claim a several right as against the lord. In the case in *Bro. Abr. Customes*, 46. and *Yearb. Mich. 8 Ed. 4.* 18 B. pl. 30., two rights came in question: first, the common law right to fish in the sea, and possibly, as incidental thereto, to land fish on the shore; secondly, the right to dry nets and fix stakes for the purpose. The latter was held a bad custom, so far as concerned the breaking the soil, as destroying the inheritance. Here the custom does not destroy the inheritance: for it does not appear that the soil will be broken. It is argued that even toll is not necessarily incident to a fair, but depends on custom or grant. [*Parke B.* referred to *Holloway v. Smith (a)* and *Bennington v. Taylor (b)*.] Here the claim rests entirely on special custom. It is true that there is no common law right to erect a stall in the fair, but that the lord's license must be had; *The Mayor, &c. of Northampton v. Ward (c)*. But the lord might have granted it at any time, with or without remuneration; and that would have been a good origin of a custom. [*Coltman J.* It is difficult to see how there could be a grant to victuallers as a body. *Parke B.* Custom supposes a local law. *Tindal C. J.* If there were a grant, it would be a prescription.] *Lee C. J.* said, in the last cited case, that, if the frequenter of the market "requires any particular easement or convenience, as a stall in the market, he must have the license of the owner of the soil for that purpose, if there be no particular sum fixed by the custom of the market for stallage; if there be a fixed sum or duty by custom, that cannot be exceeded, but still he must agree with the owner of the soil." *Spelman*, in *Gloss.*, verb. *Stallangiator*, there cited, is to a similar effect. Now here the verdict finds a fixed sum under the special

1838.

 TYSON
against
SMITH.

(a) 2 Str. 1171.

(b) 2 Lutw. 1517.

(c) 1 Wils. 107. S. C. 2 Str. 1238.

custom.

1838.

—
 TYSON
 against
 SMITH.

custom. *Rex v. Burdett* (a) shews only that it is extortion in the lord to let stalls to such an extent as to prevent the proper use of the fair, and then to demand money for them. It does not even appear that he might not have lent them gratuitously to any extent. Then, as to the length of time. If a custom may exclude the owner of the soil for one month, why not for two? If the time be very great, that may be a good reason for disbelieving the existence of such a custom in fact, but not for holding the custom bad. The compensation may be adequate. It does not appear that there was any compensation in the case of the custom which was held good in *Fitch v. Rawling* (b). There the recreation was to be at all seasonable times: it might have been as well said there, as here, that the time was too largely laid, and that the owner might be excluded from his soil. Then, as to the alleged obstruction of the public. There is no such general rule as that suggested, that the right must be laid in the inhabitants of the particular district. This objection is merely the one before discussed, as to the extent of the meaning of the word "victualler." It is attempted to put this right on the footing of a profit à prendre; but it is more in the nature of an easement; nothing is taken from the soil. In *Rex v. Starkey* (c) the claim of right to erect stalls in a market was not questioned, though no limitation was shewn. The objection that the public may possibly be excluded by the erection of stalls might as strongly be urged against placing crates of earthenware, or letting cattle stand. *Badger v. Ford* (d) is inapplicable. There the lord had done an act inconsistent with the enjoyment of the com-

(a) 1 *Ld. Raym.* 148.(b) 2 *H. Bl.* 393.(c) 7 *A. & E.* 95.(d) 3 *B. & Ald.* 153.

mon,

mon, he having himself granted the copyhold to which the right of common was annexed. If this objection be good, the plaintiff should have replied excessive user.

1838.

TYSON
against
SMITH.

W. H. Watson in reply. The local act recognises such customs only as were valid at the time. No instance has been shewn of a person out of a manor claiming by custom within it. A copyholder claims so by prescription only. *Blewitt v. Tregoning* (a), and especially the question of *Littledale J.* there (b), shews the importance of this distinction. [*Parke B. Clarkson v. Woodhouse* (c) is against you.] The argument on the other side would, if tenable, support the custom which was held bad in *Fitch v. Rawling* (d). Neither prescription nor custom, which excludes the owner of the soil, can be good; *Co. Litt.* 122 a. *Rex v. Starkey* (e) is inapplicable. [*Parke B.* That case decided only that a market was not properly removed unless the public were as well provided for as before.] As to the time; it could not be said that even goods might be left from fair day to fair day.

Cur. adv. vult.

TINDAL C. J. now delivered the judgment of the Court.

In this case, the issues raised on the third and fifth pleas, which go to the whole action, have been found for the defendant below, and judgment has been given thereon accordingly in his favour; and this writ of error is brought to reverse such judgment, on the

(a) 3 A. & E. 554.

(b) Page 572.

(c) Note (a) to *Bateson v. Green*, 5 T. R. 412.

(d) 2 H. Bl. 393.

(e) 7 A. & E. 95.

1838.

TYSON
against
SMITH.

ground that the custom set forth in those pleas, and upon which the whole of the defendant's justification rests, is unreasonable, and therefore bad in law.

The third plea (and it will be unnecessary to give a separate consideration to the fifth, as the same objections apply equally to both) begins by stating the existence of a fair by prescription to be held on some part of the commons and waste grounds of the manor of *Westward*, in the county of *Cumberland*, to be appointed for that purpose by the lord of the manor, on *Monday* after the feast of *Pentecost* in every year, and afterwards on each alternate *Monday* until the feast of *All Souls*; and then alleges a custom within the said manor, that every liege subject of the realm exercising the trade or calling of a victualler, at a reasonable time before the first day of the fair, has been used and accustomed, and of right ought, to enter upon that part of the commons or waste ground which had been set out for holding of the fair, and, for the more conveniently carrying on his trade, to erect a booth and stall, and to put and place posts and tables there, and to continue the same so erected, put, and placed until a reasonable time after the last of the said fairs so holden, yielding and paying therefore to the lord of the manor for the time being the sum of 2*d.*, when lawfully demanded. The plea then proceeds to justify the trespasses alleged to have been committed, under this custom. The existence of the prescriptive right to the fair is admitted upon the pleadings; and nothing is traversed but the existence of the custom, which custom is found by the jury. And the question before us is, whether the custom is a good custom, or unreasonable, and therefore void in law.

It

It is an acknowledged principle that, to give validity to a custom, — which has been well described to be an usage, which obtains the force of law, and is, in truth, the binding law, within a particular district or at a particular place, of the persons and things which it concerns (see *Davy's Reports*, 31, 32. (a)), — it must be certain, reasonable in itself, commencing from time immemorial, and continued without interruption. Now, of these several requisites to the validity of a custom, the only one which is brought in question on the present occasion is, whether the custom is reasonable or not; and this is a question which it belongs to the judges of the land to determine.

The question, what customs are reasonable and what are not, is one upon which the books are not altogether silent. A custom is not unreasonable merely because it is contrary to a particular maxim or rule of the common law, for "*consuetudo ex certâ causâ rationali usitata privat communem legem*" (*Co. Litt.* 113 a); as the custom of gavelkind and borough English, which are directly contrary to the law of descent, or, again, the custom of *Kent*, which is contrary to the law of escheats. Nor is a custom unreasonable because it is prejudicial to the interests of a private man, if it be for the benefit of the commonwealth, as the custom to turn the plough upon the headland of another, in favour of husbandry, or to dry nets on the land of another, in favour of fishing and for the benefit of navigation.

But, on the other hand, a custom that is contrary to the public good, or injurious or prejudicial to the many, and beneficial only to some particular person, is repug-

1838.

 TYSON
 against
 SMITH.
(a) *Le Case de Taverley*.

1898.

 Tyson
 against

nant to the law of reason ; for it could not have had a reasonable commencement : as a custom set up in a manor, on the part of the lord, that the commoner cannot turn in his cattle until the lord has put in his own, is clearly bad ; for it is injurious to the multitude, and beneficial only to the lord. (*Yearb. Trin.* 2 *H.* 4. fol. 24 B. pl. 20.) So a custom that the lord of the manor shall have 3*l.* for every pound breach of any stranger (21 *H.* 4. (a)) ; or that the lord of the manor may detain a distress taken upon his demesnes, until fine be made for the damage, at the lord's will ; (*Litt.* s. 212.) In all these, and many other instances of similar customs which are to be found in the books, the customs themselves are held to be void, on the ground of their having had no reasonable commencement, but as being founded in wrong and usurpation, and not on the voluntary consent of the people to whom they relate.

But the reasonableness of the custom in the present case is not impeached on any ground of this nature. The present custom is, in fact, in favour of the many ; and the only party against whom it is set up, and by whom it is now opposed, is the lord of the manor. The grounds upon which this custom is contended to be void on the present occasion appear to be reducible to three.

First, that it is so general that it ceases to be a custom, or pleadable as such, but is part of the common law ; secondly, that, by reason of its generality and extent, it cannot be carried into execution, and cannot therefore be considered as a reasonable custom ; and, lastly, that the right claimed amounts

(a) This reference is given in *Le Case de Tanistry*, *Dav.* 33 a. The placitum meant is probably *Mick.* 21 *H.* 7. fol. 40 A., pl. 61. See 7 *Vin. Abr.* 183., *Customs*, (F) 7., and the references there given. *Yearb. Pasch.* 21 *H.* 7. fol. 20 A., pl. 2.

to a profit à prendre out of land, and cannot therefore be claimed as a customary right.

As to the first objection, admitting, for the purpose of argument, that a custom which would comprehend within it all the liege subjects of the Crown would be bad, on the ground of its amounting to the common law, we think the custom before us is not of that description. For in the present custom there are three restrictions which necessarily limit its generality. The parties who claim the benefit of it must be victuallers; they must be victuallers coming to keep the fair; and they must come at the precise period of the year at which the fair is fixed.

Now, under the description of victuallers mentioned in the custom, we cannot consider that very large body of persons to be comprehended who, in ancient times, appear to have been classed under that designation by the statutes referred to in the argument. But we think the plea must be taken to speak in the language of the time at which it is pleaded; and, as the only term used is that of a victualler, it must be understood those only are comprehended who are now so termed, that is, persons authorised by law to keep houses of entertainment for the public. This removes the case at once from the application of the case of *Fitch v. Rawling* (a), where the custom comprehended all the liege subjects of the Crown being in the parish at any time.

But it is said the number of these victuallers may be so large, and the space occupied by each so great, as that the whole portion of the common set out for the fair may be taken by them in exclusion of the rest. If

1838.

 TYSON
against
SMITH.

(a) 2 H. Bl. 393.

1838.

Tyson
against
Smith.

this argument were to prevail, it is manifest that it would be equally applicable with respect to every particular branch of traders who frequent the fair. The sellers of corn, or of cattle, the persons who deposit their cloth, the dealers in earthen ware, and the like, might with equal shew of reason be stated by possibility to become occupiers of the whole ground to the exclusion of the rest. But it is obvious that this is not an argument against the custom being reasonable in its original commencement, or against the prescription for the fair being a reasonable prescription: it is an objection only as to the mode of exercising the rights so claimed, whether under the custom or the prescription. An inconvenience of this description will provide its own remedy: if it occurs once, it will not be likely to occur again. It is in the highest degree improbable that it should ever occur at all. A little previous enquiry will at all times prevent its recurrence. And in *Bennington v. Taylor (a)*, where it was contended that a prescription was uncertain, and therefore void, which claimed toll for a stall, and the land *prope et circa stallam &c.*, the objection was not allowed; for this, it was said, "shall be ascertained by the common usage of the fair." And these are precisely the points of consideration to which the Judges must advert, when called upon to determine whether the custom is void or not. It is not void as being against law; and, if alleged to be void because inconvenient in a high degree in its enjoyment, and therefore unreasonable, they must look to the probabilities of the case, and be satisfied that the inconvenience is real, general, and extensive, before they

(a) 2 Lutw. 1517.

hold a custom bad upon that ground, which a jury have found to exist, and to have been acted upon from beyond the time of legal memory.

As to the objection, that this is a bad custom as against the owner of the soil; that all the authorities confine a claim under a custom to matters of easement only, whereas this is a matter of profit in alieno solo, inasmuch as the soil must be disturbed by the erection of the stall; admitting this to be the case, which is left extremely doubtful on the pleadings in this case, yet the distinction between this custom and others to which reference was made is, that it gives a certain profit to the owner of the soil for the use of the same; and whether that is a full compensation or not is not the question. At the early time at which this custom originated, it may have been a profit to the lord, and at all events it may have been an object to him with respect to the profits of his fair to give encouragement to those who would erect booths and stalls for the entertainment of strangers coming to the fair. It is clear that a prescription for a certain toll by way of stallage is good, notwithstanding toll and stallage are different things; as was held in the case of *Bennington v. Taylor* (a) above referred to; and, if the lord of the fair can justify distraining for such toll under a prescription, there seems no reason why the person who uses the stall on payment of the toll, and who cannot prescribe either in a que estate or in himself and his ancestors, being a stranger, should not justify under such a custom as the present.

The custom, in fact, comes at last to an agreement, which has been evidenced by such repeated acts of

1838.

Tyson
against
Smith.

(a) 2 Lutw. 1517.

1838.

*Tyson
against
Smith.*

assent on both sides from the earliest times, beginning before time of memory and continuing down to our own times, that it has become the law of the particular place.

We therefore think the custom set out on the pleadings is a good custom, and affirm the judgment of Queen's Bench.

Judgment affirmed.

1839.

IN THE EXCHEQUER CHAMBER.

(Error from the Queen's Bench.)

*Wednesday,
January 9th.*

NESBIT against RISHTON.

Under stat.
11 G. 4. &
1 W. 4. c. 70.
s. 8. error lies
to the Court
of Exchequer
Chamber on
judgments
given in the
Queen's Bench
upon error
from the
Common Pleas
at Lancaster.

THIS was a writ of right, brought by the plaintiff in error against the defendant in error, in the Court of Common Pleas, *Lancaster*, upon which judgment was there given for the tenant. On this judgment error was brought in the Court of King's Bench; and that court in part affirmed and in part reversed the judgment of the Court of Common Pleas, *Lancaster* (*Rishton v. Nesbit*, 6 A. & E. 103.). The tenant brought error in the Court of Exchequer Chamber on the judgment of the Court of King's Bench.

On *December 3d*, 1838, *Wightman*, for the defendant in error, obtained a rule calling upon the plaintiff in error to shew cause why the proceedings on the writ of error should not be quashed for irregularity. The rule was drawn up on reading the writ of error.

Starkie

Starkie now shewed cause (a). The question is whether sect. 8 of stat. 11 G. 4. & 1 W. 4. c. 70. applies to judgments given in the Court of Queen's Bench on error from a court below. The words are, "writs of error upon *any* judgment given by *any* of the said courts:" and these are large enough to comprehend the case now before the Court. The effect of the section was discussed in *Rex v. Wright* (b). The question there was whether, the Crown not being named in the statute, this Court had cognisance, in error, of indictments; and it was held that it had. That is not a direct authority on the present question: but the language of *Tindal C. J.* is important, as shewing the general principle upon which the act should be construed. His Lordship says, "In the case, therefore, of an act of parliament passed expressly for the further advancement of justice, and in its particular enactment using terms so comprehensive as to include all cases brought up by writ of error, we think there is neither authority nor principle for implying the exception of criminal cases, upon the ground that the King, as the public prosecutor, is not expressly mentioned in the act. By such a construction of the act, its object and intent can best be attained." In *Trafford v. The King* (c) this point was never made. Stat. 27 Eliz. c. 8. s. 2. gave a writ of error into the Exchequer Chamber in actions "first commenced" in the Court of King's Bench, "other than such only where the Queen's Majesty shall be party." This clause was held inapplicable to cases where the action was commenced by original out of Chancery (d).

1839.

 NASSAR
 against
 RUSHTON.

(a) Before *Tindal C. J.*, *Bosanquet*, *Vaughan*, and *Coltman Js.*, and *Alderson* and *Gurney Bs.*

(b) 1 A. & E. 434.

(c) 8 Bing. 204. S. C. 2 Cr. & J. 265.; 2 Tyrwh. 201; on Error from K. B. See *Rex v. Trafford*, 1 B. & Ad. 874.

(d) Note (4) to *Mellor v. Spateman*, 1 Wms. Saund. 346 f.

1839.

NIEMETZ
against
RISHTON.

Nor could it apply to indictments, on account of the words of limitation. For the same reason, a judgment given in the King's Bench on error from a court palatine was held not to be within the clause. In stat. 11 G. 4. & 1 W. 4. c. 70. s. 8. there are no words of limitation. In *Rex v. Wright (a)* the indictment had been removed from quarter sessions into the Court of King's Bench; though it is true that this was not noticed in the discussion. In *Ricketts v. Lewis (b)* an action was brought in the Common Pleas, and, before stat. 11 G. 4. & 1 W. 4. c. 70., removed by writ of error into the King's Bench: and it was held that error did not lie on the judgment of the King's Bench, after the statute. The reason given was that, if such error lay, the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas might sit on appeal against a reversal of their own judgment. That does not apply here.

Wightman, contra. If this writ of error lie, there will, in the case of an action brought in a court palatine, or inferior court, be three writs of error, to the Queen's Bench, to the Exchequer Chamber, and to the House of Lords. The intention of the statute was that there should be only two. It seems that sect. 8 of the statute was intended to apply only to the superior courts at Westminster. The evil intended to be remedied was the discordancy in the proceedings. Thus, before the statute, error from the Common Pleas was brought in the King's Bench, and thence error lay only to the House of Lords: error from the King's Bench lay to the Exchequer Chamber, and so on. The statute puts the

(a) 1 A. & E. 434.

(b) 2 Cr. & J. 11. S. C. 2 Tyrwh. 15. See *Ricketts v. Lewis*, 1 B. & Ad. 197.

three superior courts on the same footing. But it cannot have been intended to put inferior courts in the same situation with the superior courts; nor could that be effected by applying the statute. The practice, as regulated by sect. 8, is inapplicable to such a case as the present. "A *transcript of the record* only shall be annexed to the return of the writ;" and, after the Court of error has given judgment, "such proceedings and judgment, as altered or affirmed, shall be entered *on the original record*, and such further proceeding as may be necessary thereon shall be awarded by *the Court in which the original record remains*." But, when error has been brought into the Queen's Bench from the Common Pleas at *Lancaster*, a transcript only is sent to the Queen's Bench; *Wareing's Practice of the Court of Common Pleas at Lancaster*, p. 301, 302. (ed. 1836). The Queen's Bench has therefore no means of sending to the Exchequer Chamber a transcript of the record: it could send only a transcript of a transcript. Again, when the judgment of the Queen's Bench is affirmed or reversed, the alteration or affirmance is to be entered on the original record. But, in this case, the Court of Queen's Bench has not the record; and no regulation is made enabling that Court to transmit to the Court below the judgment of the Court of error. [*Bosanquet J.* Is it not said that, in contemplation of law, the record itself is removed (a)? I may venture to say that the great object of the framers of the act was to obtain the opinions of as many of the Judges of the superior courts as possible before the case was taken to the House of Lords,

1839.

REVERT
NEANT
against
Biancon.

(a) See *Richardson v. Mellish*, 3 Bing. 334, 346.; *Mellish v. Richardson*, 7 B. & C. 819., 9 Bing. 125.; *Rex v. Carlile*, 2 B. & Ad. 971.; *Salter v. Slade*, 1 A. & E. 608.; *France v. Parry*, 1 A. & E. 615.

1839.

NESBITT
against
RUSHTON.

in order to shew whether it was worth while to take it thither. *Alderson B.* It was meant also to put the three courts upon the same footing, as to writs of error; which was formerly not the case.] It seems also to have been an object that writs of error from the judgments pronounced in the King's Bench upon actions commenced by original, should not go to the House of Lords in the first instance. [*Bosanquet J.* It has been said that the Court of King's Bench would allow discussion on a bill of exceptions filed upon the trial of one of its own records to be discussed in banc *there*, in order that the plaintiff in error might not be forced into the House of Lords in the first instance (a).] *Ricketts v. Lewis* (b) is directly in point. The rule was there laid down generally, that the statute applied "only to cases originally commenced in the court to which the writ of error was directed." It is true that the propriety of the decision was illustrated by an argument which does not necessarily apply here; but the same difficulty would arise, in a case like the present, if the Judges of assize for the county palatine were either Judges of the Common Pleas or Barons of the Exchequer. [*Tindal C. J.* There would be two only to revise their own decision, not five. *Alderson B.* The objection would arise on error being brought in the Queen's Bench, if the judges of assize for the county palatine were Judges of the Queen's Bench.] In *Rex v. Wright* (c) the question was merely whether the Crown was bound. There the proceedings had been removed by certiorari from the sessions: but the only judgment was in the Court of King's Bench; and the record was there.

(a) Note (a) to *Gardner v. Baillie*, 1 B. & P. 32.

(b) 2 Cr. & J. 11. S. C. 2 Tyrwh. 15.

(c) 1 A. & E. 434.

TINDAL C. J. The words of the eighth section are free from all ambiguity. In terms, they extend to "any judgment given by any" of the three superior Courts at *Westminster*. These words in themselves include, not only judgments in causes originally commenced in such courts, but all judgments given by those courts. Unless, therefore, some manifest inconvenience be shewn to result from such interpretation, or some subsequent clause introduce an inconsistency therewith, the natural construction of the words is to be adopted; and that is, to hold that the clause applies to judgments on writs of error, as well as to original judgments. Three objections are made. First, that, on this construction, there will be three writs of error upon judgments pronounced in the County palatine. I agree that this was a consequence not intended by the legislature; but it is a consequence incidental to putting the act into execution according to its legal construction. Perhaps the legislature did not contemplate the case at all. But, notwithstanding this result, whether we consider the question of delay or that of expense, this construction is more beneficial to the suitor than one which would compel the plaintiff in error to resort at once to the House of Lords upon the judgment given in the Queen's Bench. Secondly, it is objected, that the judges of assize for the county palatine may be Judges of the Common Pleas or Barons of the Exchequer, so that they would, in this Court, have to decide upon an appeal from their own decision; and that the case is thus brought within the difficulty pointed out in *Ricketts v. Lewis* (a). That observation, however, would apply to every case of error brought upon the judgment pronounced on a bill

1839.

 NERBY
 against
 RIMTOW.

(a) 2 Cr. & J. 11. S. C. 2 Tyrwh. 15.

1839.

NESTER
against
REASON.

of exceptions, where the judge who is excepted against may, and often does, sit in the court of error: but in the case referred to, which is never likely to occur again, the difficulty was that the Court of Common Pleas would have been made substantially to sit in error in the case of their own judgment. Thirdly, it is said that the latter part of the clause can apply only where the action was originally commenced in the court to which the writ of error is sent. But, if we look at the course pursued in proceedings on writs of error, we shall find that the difficulty suggested does not arise. Before the passing of the late statute, the record itself was always considered in law as sent up by the inferior to the superior court, although undoubtedly, in point of practice, a transcript only was sent up, and the original record remained below (a). The clause in question has made it compulsory, in the case of judgments given by the Courts of *Westminster*, "that a transcript of the record only shall be annexed to the return of the writ," and the original record shall remain below. And accordingly, in the present case, a transcript only of the proceedings and of the judgment pronounced by the Court of Queen's Bench has been brought up to this Court by the writ of error, the original proceedings remaining in that court. There seems, therefore, no real difficulty in applying the directions at the close of the eighth section to the circumstances of the present case: for this Court may "review the proceedings, and give judgment as they shall be advised thereon; and such proceedings and judgment, as altered or affirmed," may "be entered on the original record,

(a) See *Sampayo v. De Payba*, 5 Taunt. 83.

and

and such further proceeding as may be necessary thereon" may "be awarded by the Court in which the original record remains," in the same manner as those further proceedings used to be awarded and take place, before the statute was passed, in cases of writs of error from the superior Courts and the Court of Queen's Bench. What difficulty does this create, in the case of error upon a judgment of the Court of the county palatine, which would not exist also in the case of error upon an original judgment of any superior Court of *Westminster Hall*? Therefore, on the whole, we find that this writ of error lies, according to the spirit of the act: and I am glad to find that such a construction is also within the language.

The rest of *The Court* concurred.

Rule discharged.

Note.—After this judgment was pronounced, the officer of the Court enquired to what day the Court would adjourn. The Court then stated that it was proposed, for the future, to adhere to the following arrangement, in all cases where there was to be an argument. That, on the first *Monday* after every term, except *Easter* term, the Court of Error from the Queen's Bench shall sit, and shall go on, from day to day, throughout the week, till the business pending shall be disposed of. That, on the second *Monday*, the Court of Error from the Common Pleas shall sit, and go on in like manner. That, on the third *Monday* after term, the Court of Error from the Exchequer shall sit, and go on in like manner. No arguments shall be heard in the Court of Error between *Easter* and *Trinity* terms. The above arrangement not to apply to cases where the Court pronounces judgment on cases argued at former sittings and standing over for judgment.

END OF MICHAELMAS VACATION.

1839.

NEBERT
against
RISHTON.

C A S E S

1839.

ARGUED AND DETERMINED

IN THE

Court of QUEEN's BENCH,

AND

UPON WRITS OF ERROR FROM THAT COURT TO THE

EXCHEQUER CHAMBER,

IN

Hilary Term,

In the Second Year of the Reign of VICTORIA.

The Judges who usually sat in Banc in this term were

LORD DENMAN C. J.

WILLIAMS J.

LITLEDALE J.

COLERIDGE J.

MEMORANDUM.

Sir *James Allan Park* died in *Michaelmas* vacation, 1838, and the Right Honourable *Thomas Erskine*, Chief Judge of the Court of Bankruptcy, was appointed a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in his stead, having first been called to the degree of the coif, when he gave rings with the motto "*Judicium parium*."

The

1839.

The five following cases (argued in *Michaelmas* vacation) are reported by *Edward Smirke* of the *Middle Temple*, Esq., Barrister-at-law.

The QUEEN *against* The Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of LIVERPOOL. *Friday, January 11th.*

ON appeal against a rate for the relief of the poor of the parish of *Liverpool*, in which the appellants were rated as follows:—Town dues 48,716*l.*, anchorage dues 584*l.*; the sessions confirmed the rate, subject to the opinion of this Court on the following case.

The several properties rated are the revenue of the Municipal Corporation of the Borough of *Liverpool*, collected by their officers (who are paid by salaries), and by them paid over to the treasurer of the borough, to the account of the borough fund. Before the passing of the Municipal Corporation Act, 5 & 6 *W. 4. c. 76.*, these properties were rated to the relief of the poor, which rating was always acquiesced in, and these properties are still rateable to the poor, unless they are exempt under the operation of the above Act. The question for the opinion of the Court is, whether the mayor, aldermen, and burgesses of the borough of *Liverpool* are still rateable to the relief of the poor in respect of these properties. If the Court shall be of opinion that the appellants are not so rateable, then the rate to be amended by striking out the said properties and the names of the appellants.

Where a municipal corporation had been rateable and rated to the relief of the poor, in respect of town and anchorage dues, before stat. 5 & 6 *W. 4. c. 76.* (for the Regulation of Municipal Corporations):

Held, that sect. 92 of that act, by appropriating all the corporate funds to purposes of a public nature, exempted the above dues from further rateability.

1839.

The case was argued at the sittings in banc after Michaelmas term last (a).

The QUEEN
against
The Mayor &c.
of LIVERPOOL.

Cresswell, Henderson, and Greaves, in support of the rate. It is not disputed that the corporation is rateable unless exempted by the operation of 5 & 6 W. 4. c. 76. Sect. 92 provides that the rents and profits of all hereditaments," and the "annual proceeds of all monies," &c. belonging or payable to the corporate body, shall be paid to the treasurer of the borough, and carried to the account of the borough fund. The rents and profits intended, are the *net* rents after payment of all outgoings. The legislature did not mean to deprive the poor of their interest in the corporate property, but to point out the future application of the surplus profits, and to make the corporation trustees for the purpose of such application. The rateability of the corporate property tends to reduce the burden of the rate upon others, and thus operates to the benefit of the borough, which is one of the avowed objects of the act; but it cannot have been meant to benefit the borough at the expense of the parish, especially as the two are not found to be co-extensive. The expression "annual proceeds," seems to imply that annual charges are to be deducted, otherwise the word "annual" is superfluous. The word "profits" is explained by *Rex v. Jodrell* (b) to mean the "average annual profits, after every outgoing is paid." In wills and other instruments it has been construed to mean net profits. If an exemption had been intended, it would have been declared in express

(a) September 1st, 1838. Before Lord Denman C. J., *Patteson Williams*, and *Coleridge* Js.

(b) 1 B. & Ad. 403. 407.

terms,

terms, and not left to be inferred from an affirmative statute passed entirely *alio intuitu*. It will be contended that this is now become a public fund applicable to public purposes only, and therefore no longer rateable; *Rex v. Commissioners of Salter's Load Sluice (a)*. In that case neither any particular place nor person was benefited, but the public in general; and the same act which created the toll was also held to exempt it from rates. In *Rex v. Liverpool (b)* the dues were solely applicable to a public dock and harbour used by all the world; and in *Rex v. The Trustees of the River Weaver Navigation (c)*, the tolls were appropriated by parliament to the repair of county bridges and public highways. Here the borough fund is to be applied to purposes of a local and private nature. These are, 1. The payment of debts: an Act to compel the corporation to pay its debts cannot be considered as giving a public character to its revenues; nor is it necessary that the debts should have been incurred for the public benefit. 2. The payment of the salaries of the mayor and other officers: These are all strictly private purposes. 3. The surplus is to be spent for the "public benefit of the inhabitants, and improvement of the borough." Under this power the corporation may purchase rateable property; they may erect public buildings or lay out a square or a market, which would be rateable, *Rex v. Gardner (d)*. Then why should not the fund, out of which such expenses must be supplied, be itself rated? The act does not authorize a borough rate for mere improvements, thereby intimating an intention that the subject should not be taxed for such purposes; yet if a surplus shall result in consequence

1839.

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The QUEEN
against
The Mayor &c.
of LIVERPOOL.

(a) 4 T. R. 730.

(b) 7 B. & C. 61.

(c) 7 B. & C. 70. note (c).

(d) *Cowp.* 79.

1839.

**The QUEEN
against
The Mayor &c.
of LIVERPOOL.**

of an exemption from rateability, the deficiency in the rate must be made up by the parishioners, and thus the parish will be indirectly taxed for improvements. Even if some of the purposes specified in sect. 92 be admitted to be of a public nature, as the expenses of prosecuting offenders &c., yet a partial application of property to such purposes has never been held to be a ground of total exemption. *The Attorney-General v. Aspinall* (a) shews that the benefit intended by the act is that of the borough only, which is not strictly a public benefit like that derived from bridges, highways, or harbours. Property is not the less liable to assessment because it is held in trust for certain specified objects or persons: *Rex v. Tewkesbury* (b), *Rex v. Agar* (c), *Rex v. St. Giles's, York* (d), *The Governors of the Bristol Poor v. Wait* (e), *Rex v. Mayor &c. of York* (g). The exemption of public property has been put on the ground of the impossibility of finding a beneficial occupier; but here the occupation is admitted.

Wightman and Murphy, contra. *The Attorney-General v. Aspinall* (a), cited on the other side, is in fact an authority to shew that this is a public fund held in trust for public purposes. The Lord Chancellor there says, "I cannot doubt that a clear trust was enacted by this act for public, and therefore, in the legal sense of the term, charitable purposes, of all the property belonging to the corporation." *The Attorney-General v. Wilson* (i) has been since decided in con-

(a) 2 *Myl. & C.* 613.(c) 14 *East*, 256.(e) 5 *A. & E.* 1.(h) 2 *Myl. & C.* 613.(b) 13 *East*, 155.(d) 3 *B. & Ad.* 573.(g) 6 *A. & E.* 419.(i) Cited, 2 *Myl. & C.* 634. note (a).

formity with *The Attorney-General v. Aspinall* (a). "Profits" mean all sources of income; and it matters not that they are received by collectors and paid into the hands of the treasurer; they are still corporate funds in the hands of corporate officers. The destination of those funds to public objects, by statute, exempts the receiver from rateability. There is no beneficial occupation where an act of parliament disposes of the whole: *Rex v. Liverpool* (b), *Rex v. Commissioners for lighting Beverly* (c). If the corporation is rateable, then, in the event of the expenses of the corporation absorbing the whole fund (and a deficiency may be supposed, whatever the fund may be), there must be a borough rate to pay the poor rate, and the case would resemble the one suggested by the Court in *The Governors of the Bristol Poor v. Wait* (d), of parish officers rating premises occupied by their own poor. In the case of the lunatic asylum (e) and other charitable institutions, the application of the funds was purely voluntary. [Coleridge J. The trustees were there compellable to apply them to the objects of the charity.] But the subscribers were not so bound. The corporation, in this case, is a mere instrument for municipal purposes, for the due execution of which the act carefully provides; thus an account is to be rendered annually to a secretary of state, stat. 6 & 7 W. 4. c. 104. s. 10; and orders for payment out of the borough fund may be removed into this Court by certiorari, 1 Vict. c. 78. s. 44.

1839.

—
The QUEEN
against
The Mayor &c.
of LIVERPOOL.

Lord DENMAN C. J. now delivered the judgment of the Court.

(a) 2 Myl. & C. 618.

(b) 7 B. & C. 61.

(c) 6 A. & E. 645.

(d) 5 A. & E. 1.

(e) *Rex v. St. Giles's, York*, 3 B. & Ad. 573.

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The Mayor &c.
of LIVERPOOL.

This was an appeal against a rate made for the relief of the poor of the parish of *Liverpool*, upon certain properties which are the revenue of the municipal corporation of the borough of *Liverpool*, and which, before the passing of the Municipal Corporation Act (5 & 6 W. 4. c. 76.), were rated to the relief of the poor, and, as the case states, are still liable to be so, unless they are exempted by the operation of that act.

This question, which now comes before us for the first time, depends upon the construction of the 92d section, and the effect to be properly attributed thereto. By that section it is enacted, that "the rents and profits of all hereditaments, and the interest, dividends, and annual proceeds of all monies, dues, chattels, and valuable securities belonging or payable to any body corporate named in conjunction with the said borough in the said schedules A. and B., or to any member or officer thereof in his corporate capacity, and every fine or penalty for any offence against this act (the application of which has not been already provided for) shall be paid to the treasurer of such borough, and all the monies which he shall so receive shall be carried by him to the account of a fund to be called 'The Borough Fund.'"

Such is the description of that which is to constitute the fund, and upon the language of it, and more particularly upon the meaning of the word "profits," much criticism was employed in the course of the argument. We, however, attribute little importance to those remarks; first, because the particular meaning which may have been attached to it in the instruments to which reference was made, probably depended entirely upon the context; and, further, we are perfectly satisfied that

that the language is used in its ordinary and popular sense, and that the meaning is, that the whole income of the corporation, from whatever sources arising, shall constitute "The Borough Fund."

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The Mayor &c.
of LIVERPOOL.

Then comes the direction as to the uses and purposes for which the fund is to be applied; and it is declared that the same, subject to the payment of the debts owing by the corporation at the time when the act passed, or of so much as the council (that is, the new council) should think it expedient to redeem, and to the interest of such debt, was to be applied to the payment of the salaries of certain officers, expenses of borough elections, sessions, and prosecutions, goals and corporate buildings, police, and all other expenses incident to carrying the act into effect, and in case of a surplus, that such surplus was to be applied under the direction of the council *for the public benefit of the inhabitants, and the improvement of the borough*. Then follows a provision, in case of a deficiency for the purposes aforesaid, that the town council may raise the deficiency by a borough rate in the nature of a county rate.

The question, therefore, comes to this, what is the state of the case as to the rateability of property similarly circumstanced? Because, if we find the principle settled by decisions already made, we feel it to be our duty to act upon them, and not, upon the apprehension of any inconvenient or unforeseen consequences, to question or weaken their authority. Now, in the case of *Rex v. The Inhabitants of the Parish of Liverpool* (a), certain trustees, in whom the dock estates in the same parish were vested, were rated in respect of

(a) 7 B. & C. 61.

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The Mayor &c.
of LIVERPOOL.

“ the annual value and profits ” of the same ; and property (otherwise rateable) was there held not to be so, because the rates and duties payable by act of parliament were to be applied to the payment of debts, and to the “ making, erecting, building, finishing, and maintaining docks, basins, piers, and other works and buildings in the port of *Liverpool*.” In that case, therefore, the application of the tolls or rates (which otherwise, as we have just observed, must have been as much rateable as a mileage rate upon a canal) in the manner above described, exempted them from rateability. And in the case of *Rex v. The Trustees of the River Weaver Navigation (a)*, which was under the consideration of the Court at the same time as the case just cited, property (as in that case, clearly rateable) was held to be exempt on account of the uses and purposes to which the profits were applicable. There the rates and duties after payment of expenses, &c., were directed to be employed in the repair of bridges, and in aid of other public charges upon the county ; and the Court decided that the principle of the former disposed also of the latter case. They held that the repairing and maintaining bridges and highways were *public purposes*, and that, as no part of the monies received could be applied to *private purposes*, they were therefore not rateable in the hands of the trustees.

We feel it to be impossible substantially to distinguish these cases, and especially the latter, from the present. The extent and approximation to something like national benefit are in kind, and almost in degree, the same. The public, in the one case, is the same town of *Liverpool* ; in the other, the county of *Chester*.

(a) *Rex v. Liverpool*, 7 B. & C. 70. note (c)

The case of *The Attorney-General v. Aspinall* (a), in which this very borough fund was under consideration, was cited by the learned counsel on both sides. The main question, however, seems there to have been, whether the corporate property was trust property, so as to come under the jurisdiction of the Court of Chancery; and it is probable (though it is wholly unnecessary to express any opinion) the same decision might have been made, if the property had been comparatively of a much more private nature. But we have the satisfaction of observing, that the view which we have taken of the earlier part of the 92d section, is expressly adopted by the Lord Chancellor. For his Lordship, in describing (not giving the words of) that section, comprehends "the rents, profits," and other sources of revenue therein enumerated, by the general expression of "all the income of" the corporate "property" (b).

1839.

THE QUEEN
against
The Mayor &c.
of LIVERPOOL.

In coming to the conclusion at which we have arrived, we certainly feel that, whatever may be the effect in the present instance, in many boroughs consisting of several parishes the proportion and rate of contribution may be materially disturbed. We think it also extremely probable, that the effect of this section upon the rateability of corporate property was overlooked altogether.

Our business, however, is with the construction of the statute, and not with consequences; and the remedy, if any be requisite, must be by the legislature.

The result of our opinion is that the order of sessions must be quashed.

S.

Order of sessions quashed.

(a) 2 *Mylne & Craig*, 613.

(b) P. 619.

1839.

Friday,
January 11th.

The QUEEN *against* The Chamberlains, Common Council, and Freemen of ALNWICK.

By immemorial user, and grants of various dates by the lords of the soil to the corporation of *A.*, the freemen of *A.* and their widows were entitled to have common of pasture and turbary in *A.* moor, paying a fixed rent, and to cut peat, furzes and brushwood, with liberty to get limestone, slate and freestone, to dig clay, burn bricks, take flags, whins and wattles, to dig and take sand, gravel, and marle for the use of the freemen in certain parts of the moor, and to erect limekilns and herds' houses where the lord's bailiff and the corporation should think fit. The corporation made by-laws to regulate the stints, ap-

ON appeal against a poor rate for the parish of *Alnwick*, wherein the "chamberlains, common council, and freemen of the borough of *Alnwick*" were assessed as the occupiers of "land" within the parish, the sessions confirmed the rate subject to the opinion of this Court upon a case of which the following were the material facts.

The town of *Alnwick* is an ancient borough and corporation by prescription, by the name of the Chamberlains, Common Council, and Freemen of *Alnwick*. The common council consists of twenty four freemen elected for life from whom four chamberlains are annually chosen. The management of the affairs of the corporation is vested in the chamberlains and common council. Near the town is an uninclosed tract of between two and three thousand acres called *Haydon Forest* or *Alnwick Moor*, on which the freemen and their widows, resident within the parish, have from time immemorial been entitled to certain rights set forth in the following documents.

1. A charter, without date but supposed to be of the date of *Henry II.*, containing a grant by *William de Vesci* to his burgesses of *Alnwick* and their heirs to have

pointed moor grieves to enforce them by distress &c., and persons to hoe and burn whins, gather stones, and drain and sow grass. The lord of the soil had a right to grant licences to make bricks, get clay, make washpools and win ironstone, coals, and limestone, but not to grant the herbage of the moor; nor did he depasture cattle there: Held, that the interest of the freemen was substantially that of commoners only, and that the corporation was not rateable to the poor in respect thereof.

common

common of pasture in *Haydon* and in the moor of *Haydon*.

2. Another, supposed to be of the date of *Edward I.* by *W. de Vesci*, grandson of the above, containing a confirmation to the burgesses of all the liberties and free customs granted by the king to the burgesses of *Newcastle*, and also common of pasture in *Haydon* &c. as in the charter of his grandfather.

3. Another, of the date 1290, by a son of the last, of which the following is a transaction.

“Know all present, and to come, that I, *William de Vesci*, brother and heir of *John de Vesci*, have given and granted, and by this my present charter have confirmed to my burgesses of *Alnwick*, all the liberties and free customs in all things as the charter of *William de Vesci* my father, which they have from him, more fully testified. I have also given and granted to the same my burgesses some parcels of land in the field of *Bondgate*, which are called *Scottefeldhalch* and *Ranwells Strother* with all their appurtenances, with common in *Haydon*, and with all the privileges in *Haydon Moor* in the marshes, feeding and pasture grounds, with liberty to get peats, turves, and brushwood, and with all the other their free appurtenances and privileges which they were wont to have and to use in the times of my ancestors, as well in the forbidden month as in others. And it must be known that on the northern part of the way from *Bolton*, which is called *Boultonstrete* as far as the path which is called *Colliergate*, cultivation shall by no means be used by any one before it be granted by me and the said burgesses, which cultivation may be used within the said bounds for my accommodation and the accommodation of the said burgesses by united consent, and the whole

1899.

The QUEEN
against
The
Chamberlains,
&c. of
ALNWICK.

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The
Chamberlains,
&c. of
ALNWICK.

whole pasture in the same place shall remain jointly and in common to me and the said burgesses. In testimony whereof I have put my seal to this writing, and my said burgesses, in confirmation thereof, have put their common seal to the other part of this writing, which is to remain in my possession; and it must be known that the same burgesses and their heirs, for the privileges which they are to have in *Haydon* in the forbidden month with their liberties, shall give me and my heirs two shillings annually, namely one half at the feast of *St. Martin* and the other half at *Pentecost* for ever."

In 1700 the corporation made various enclosures from *Haydon Forest* or *Alnwick Moor*, which were divided into several farms.

4. In 1762, articles of agreement under the seals of the parties, and under the corporate seal, were entered into, to which *Hugh Earl of Northumberland* and *Elizabeth* his wife, and certain servants of the earl of the one part, and (amongst others) the Chamberlains and common council, on behalf of themselves and the freemen of *Alnwick*, of the other part, were parties. The articles recited a bill in Chancery exhibited by the Earl and Countess against the corporation, to establish the rights of the former to the soil and inheritance of the moor, and to restrain the latter from inclosing any part of it, or digging mines or quarries in it, and they set forth the mutual covenant and agreement of the parties to the following effect:—That the chamberlains, and all officers of the borough and forest of *Haydon* or *Alnwick Moor*, should be sworn at the lord's court leet before they entered upon their office. That the freeman's oath should be in a prescribed form, including allegiance to the king and fealty to the lord and lady of the manor.

That

That the Earl and Countess were lord and lady of the manor and borough of *Alnwick*, and that the forest of *Haydon* or *Alnwick Moor* lies within the manor, and is parcel of it; that the freemen were entitled to common of pasture thereon, on payment of the rent of 2s. per annum for the liberty of depasturing thereon in the fence month, and that freemen and their widows had a right to dig and cut peat, furzes, turves, and brushes growing there for their own use; and that the lord and lady had no right to grant the herbage or vesture of the forest or moor to their tenants holding by burgage tenure, or any other person whatsoever. That no freeholder, unless also a freeman, had any right in *Alnwick Moor*. That certain inclosures therein described, being part of the said forest or moor, should be established to the corporation, and continue to be let by and for their benefit; but that no new inclosures should be made without consent of the lord and lady: that the soil or royalties in the forest or moor, and in the inclosures made therefrom, should be vested in the Earl and Countess and their heirs: that the Earl and Countess should let the coal-mines and quarries to the corporation, saving the right of the Earl &c. to get coal and stone for his own use. That the freemen and their widows should have liberty at all times to get limestone, slate, and freestones in any of these quarries for their own use, and to dig clay, burn bricks, take away turves, and flags, whins and wattles; and to dig and take away sand, gravel, clay, and marle, for the use of themselves or other freemen &c., in such parts of the forest or moor as the lord's bailiff of the borough and the chamberlains should think fit. That the limekilns and herds' houses in the forest or moor should continue for the use

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The
Chamberlains,
&c. of
ALNWICK.

of

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The
Chamberlains,
&c. of
ALNWICK.

of the freemen, with liberty to erect others where the lord's bailiff and chamberlains should think fit. That reasonable satisfaction should be made from time to time to the corporation or their lessees, for damage done by working mines, &c. within the enclosures. The articles then proceeded to ascertain the boundaries of the forest or moor; and, in exchange for a portion of the moor severed therefrom, to be enjoyed by the Earl and Countess as their separate freehold, it was provided that a portion of land should be set off from the separate freehold of the Earl and Countess, and laid to the moor, to be held and enjoyed by the freemen of *Alnwick*, as part of the moor.

The ground so laid to the moor in virtue of the above articles is still enjoyed by the freemen.

5. In 1811, a further indenture was executed between the Duke of *Northumberland* of the one part, and the Chamberlains and common council (under the corporate seal) of the other. After reciting that the Duke was seized of certain freehold pieces of ground, and that freemen of *Alnwick* were entitled to common of pasture and other rights upon the forest of *Aydon* or *Alnwick Moor* upon payment of the rent of 2s. per annum to the Duke for the liberty of depasturing their cattle thereon in the fence month, and that an exchange had been agreed upon, it witnessed that the Duke granted to the Chamberlains and common council, in trust for themselves and the rest of the freemen for the time being, right of common or depasturing in and upon the said pieces of ground adjoining the moor, together with all such other privileges and rights in and upon them as the Chamberlains, common council, and freemen were entitled to in and upon or over the said forest or moor,

to

to be enjoyed in like manner as on the said forest or moor; and the Chamberlains and common council, on behalf of themselves and the rest of the freemen, released to the Duke and his heirs all their right of common, and all other their right and interest, of, in, and to a piece of ground parcel of the said forest or moor.

The pieces of freehold over which the Duke granted the rights mentioned in the last indenture, and which were in 1811 part of an enclosed field, are now open and enjoyed by the freemen like the rest of the moor.

The Duke is lord of the soil and royalties of the moor, and grants licenses to make bricks, get clay, make washpools, and win iron-stones, coals, and limestone. His right to do so is not disputed. About three years ago, he granted to the Chamberlains, common council and freemen license to make a permanent washpool on the moor for washing their sheep, and to erect a pen with stone walls. The Duke's bailiff accompanies the new freemen, when riding the boundaries of the moor.

6. In 1833, the Duke, as impropiator of the tithes of *Alnwick*, demised to the corporation for ten years the agistment tithes in respect of cattle depastured on the enclosed lands of the corporation within the manor and borough of *Alnwick*, including the enclosure made from the moor, as also in respect of cattle depastured on the moor, on which the freemen are stated in the lease to be entitled to common of pasture.

The rent of 2s. a year is regularly paid to the Duke for the liberty of depasturing the moor in the fence month, and the receipt, which is yearly given, expresses that sum to be "received of the burgesses of the borough of *Alnwick*," for such license.

The enclosures made from the common by the corporation

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The
Chamberlains,
&c. of
ALNWICK.

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The
Chamberlains,
&c. of
ALNWICK.

poration before 1762, and referred to in the articles of that date, contain 700 acres and upwards, and are let to tenants, whose rents are received and applied by the common council for the benefit of the corporation. One of the leases was set forth in the case, by which it appeared that the corporation in such lease reserved all mines, quarries, woods, trees, &c., with liberty to work, fell, lop, &c., and to enter when perambulating the boundaries of *Aydon Forest*, "the said premises being part and parcel thereof."

The tenants of these enclosures are rated to the poor's rate; but the uninclosed land called *Haydon Forest* or *Alnwick Moor* has never before been rated. The freemen put their cattle on the moor without any permission asked, or any payment made to the corporation for the exercise of the right. Each freeman pays tithes of lambs or wool to the tithe owner for his own stock, and the rent reserved in the lease of agistment tithe is paid to the Duke by the Chamberlains' clerk. The corporation do not occupy or turn cattle out on the moor, except as individual freemen. The cattle of non-freemen, trespassing on the moor, have been, on several occasions, impounded by individual freemen.

No profit arises to the corporation, in their corporate capacity, from the moor; but the Chamberlain and council make by-laws for regulating the stints to be depastured by the freemen. The case set forth a bye-law for this purpose made in 1824, in which (inter alia) the number and nature of the stints were regulated, and the times and places for depasturing cattle were fixed, and the moor grieves of the borough were empowered to distrain all cattle or goods found depasturing or being in or on the moor in contravention of the order.

The

The regulations prescribed in this bye-law have always been observed.

The moor grieves are servants of the Chamberlains and common council, who also appoint the herd. The latter resides in a house for which he is rated, and the rates are paid by the Chamberlains' clerk. He has four stints in the forest, whether a freeman or not, and has established his right to them by an action at law. The Chamberlains and council often employ persons to hoe and burn the whins and furzes on the unenclosed parts of the forest, to gather stones, drain, and sow grass seeds. No cattle belonging to the duke are depastured on the moor.

It was as the alleged occupiers of this moor that the appellants were rated, and the sessions, upon the above evidence, "were of opinion that the corporation were in such occupation of the herbage of the moor, as trustees for the freemen, and for their benefit, as rendered them liable to be assessed to the rate."

The questions for the opinion of the Court were, whether there was any rateable occupation of *Alnwick Moor* in respect of the aforesaid rights or privileges enjoyed by the freemen of *Alnwick*? whether the occupation of the same was properly described and assessed in the rate as land? and whether, if there was such a rateable occupation, the rate was properly made upon the appellants?

The case was argued at the sittings in banc after *Michaelmas* term last (a).

(a) December 1st, 1838. Before Lord Denman C. J., Patteson, Williams, and Coleridge Js.

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The
Chamberlains,
&c. of
ALNWICK.

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The
Chamberlains,
&c. of
ALNWICK.

Talfourd Serjt., Ingham, and Otter, in support of the order, contended that, whatever may have been the right originally intended to be conveyed, the corporation had, in fact, exercised and obtained rights of an exclusive nature, greater than a mere right of common or incorporeal hereditament; and that the corporation had a possession sufficient to maintain trespass quare clausum fregit. They cited *Rex v. Bell (a)*, *Burt v. Moore (b)*, *Potter v. North (c)*, *Rex v. Ellis (d)*, *Rex v. Watson (e)*, *Rex v. Sudbury (g)*, *Jones v. Richard (h)*, *Dyson v. Collick (i)*, *Crosby v. Wadsworth (k)*, *Rex v. Mayor and Commonalty of York (l)*. It was also contended that general ability, derived from any property within the parish, made an inhabitant rateable, and that the sessions, having expressly found that the appellants were occupiers, had precluded further inquiry.

Sir *F. Pollock*, *Wightman*, and *Granger*, *contra*, relied upon *Rex v. Churchill (m)*, *Rex v. Aberavon (n)*, *Rex v. Tewkesbury (o)*, and contended that the right was only common of pasture and turbary; that some of the acts done might be evidence of a right to the soil, but did not conclusively shew it; that there was no beneficial occupation by the parties rated; that the finding of the sessions, in point of form, and under the circumstances, was not conclusive; and that the subject-matter of the rate was at all events improperly described as "land."

(a) 7 T. R. 598.

(c) 1 Saund. 350.

(e) 5 East, 480.

(h) 5 A. & E. 413.

(k) 6 East, 602.

(m) 4 B. & C. 750.

(o) 13 East, 155.

(b) 5 T. R. 329.

(d) 1 M. & S. 652.

(g) 1 B. & C. 389.

(i) 5 B. & Ald. 600.

(l) 6 A. & E. 419.

(n) 5 East, 453.

Lord

Lord DENMAN C. J. now delivered the judgment of the Court. After stating the cause of appeal, his lordship said: The court of quarter sessions for the county of *Northumberland* confirmed the rate subject to the opinion of this Court upon a case which states the facts hereinafter &c. noticed, and at the conclusion — “that the sessions were of opinion, that the corporation were in such occupation of the herbage of the *Moor* as trustees for the said freemen, and for their benefit, as rendered them liable to be assessed to the rate.” We notice this at the outset, because, generally speaking, this finding of the sessions would have been conclusive upon the question. In this instance, however, from the long statement of facts submitted to our consideration, it is impossible not to perceive that the finding of the sessions was merely formal, and that their real object was to procure our opinion, whether the facts stated warrant their conclusion or not. The principal question accordingly (and into which alone it is necessary for us to enter) is, whether the interest of the appellants in the district (of from 2000 to 3000 acres) called *Aydon* or *Haydon Forest*, or *Alnwick Moor*, in the neighbourhood of the town of *Alnwick*, be of such a nature as to make them liable to be rated. It is material to observe thus early, that it is found as a fact that the Duke of *Northumberland* is lord of the soil and royalties of the said moor; and if that finding needed any confirmation, it would have received it from the fact of his having recently granted a written licence to erect a permanent wash-pool thereon. It is obvious, also, that the original grants to the burgesses of *Alnwick* were plainly of a right of common, and of that right only: hence this important consideration arises, that the

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The
Chamberlains,
&c. of
ALNWICK.

1839.

—
The QUEEN
against
The
Chamberlains,
&c. of
ALNWICK.

burthen is clearly cast upon those who contend that some larger interest in the soil than a mere right of common is vested in the appellants, to shew how and when such enlarged interest accrued.

The two first grants are from the family of *De Vesci*, then lords of the manor of *Alnwick*, and supposed to be about the dates of *Henry* the Second and *Edward* the First respectively, "of common of pasture in *Haydon* in the manor of *Haydon* to their burgesses of *Alnwick*." The third grant to the said burgesses of the date of 1290 by the son of the second grantor is of certain lands (not material to the present purposes) "with common in *Haydon* and with all the privileges in *Haydon Moor* in the marshes, feeding, and pasture grounds, with liberty to get peats, turves, and brushwood, and with all other their free appurtenances and privileges which they were wont to have and to use in the times of my ancestors, as well in the forbidden month as in others," for which enlarged privilege during the fence month 2s. annually were to be paid, and the same (as the case states) is regularly paid to the lord at this day.

From the two earlier grants, therefore, common of pasture only, and by the third common of turbary in addition, with an extension of all the privileges over the fence month, were given to the burgesses; and the payment of the 2s. annually, as already mentioned, amounts to a direct acknowledgment of the force and validity of the said grant of 1290, by which unquestionably no right in the soil, of a higher nature than that of common of pasture and turbary, passed to the burgesses.

Nor do we think that from the more modern deeds and instruments introduced into the case, any inference of a contrary tendency can be fairly deduced. That of

1811 was for the purpose of effecting an exchange between the Duke of *Northumberland* and the chamberlains, common council, and freemen of *Alnwick* "of a certain portion of enclosed land belonging to the duke adjoining to *Aydon Forest*, or *Alnwick Moor*, for a certain portion of the said forest or moor." And it is to be observed, that what is thereby professed to be relinquished to his Grace, is not land, but "all the right of common and depasturage, and other right, title, claim, and interest of the said chamberlains &c., of, in, and to the piece of ground in question." The last in order, and the most recent in date is the deed of 1833, whereby the duke, as impropiator of the tithes of the manor and borough of *Alnwick*, for a rent of 1*s.*, leased, during a term of ten years, the agistment tithes payable in respect of cattle depastured (amongst other places) upon the said moor, on which the freemen of *Alnwick* are therein stated to be entitled to common of pasture.

We have, purposely, omitted the articles of agreement of *March* 1762, though of earlier date than the two deeds lastly noticed, because they have reference, especially, to the enclosure of upwards of 700 acres of the moor about the year 1700, a fact to which considerable importance seems to have been attached, though, with the accompanying explanation, it appears rather to operate in favour of the appellants. That such enclosure was made upon any exercise or claim of right is certainly not shewn; that it originated in encroachment and usurpation there is every reason to conclude.

The said articles of agreement made between the Earl and Countess of *Northumberland*, and the chamberlains &c. of *Alnwick*, after reciting that a bill had been filed by this said earl and countess against the said cham-

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The
Chamberlains,
&c. of
ALNWICK.

1839.

—
The QUEEN
against
The
Chamberlains,
&c. of
ALNWICK.

berlains (amongst other things) to quiet the right of the former to the soil and inheritance in the place in question, and to restrain the latter from letting or enclosing any part of the same, went on to adjust between the parties, that the said enclosure of 700 acres should stand, but that no further enclosures should be made; and that the soil and freehold were to be vested in the said earl and countess, as from the earlier documents it is quite clear they were before. Since, therefore, the Duke of *Northumberland* is stated expressly to be lord of the soil, and that there is no reason for concluding that the part of the moor enclosed was under different circumstances from the rest, and the chamberlains &c. formally stipulate to enclose no more, it seems clearly to follow that they had no right to enclose at all: for if they had, why should they renounce it?

It must certainly be conceded (as was pointed out in the argument) that very large and, with reference to commons generally, unusual rights are, by these same articles, conceded or admitted to belong to the freemen; such as the liberty to disturb the surface by digging for clay and gravel, and to cut down whins, wattles, &c. upon the surface; and in other respects also (as appears by the case) they have interfered with it. Seeing, however, as we think we do distinctly, the original relation of these parties to each other, to have been that of lord and commoner, and that there is nothing in any subsequent deed or instrument to satisfy us that the quality and extent of the interest of the freemen has since been varied, we think that the nature of their rights is still — as, at first, it is shewn to have been — that of commoners, though with large and (as we have before observed) unusual enjoyments upon this moor.

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In coming to this conclusion upon the facts of this case, we have, in effect, disposed of it; because it was not contended in argument (and could not have been with any prospect of success) that, unless the interest of the appellants in this tract of land was something more than an incorporeal hereditament, the rate could be sustained. It is not needful, therefore, to do more than observe generally as to all the cases cited in the argument (*Rex v. Watson (a)*, *Rex v. Aberavon (b)*, *Rex v. Tewkesbury (c)*, *Rex v. Sudbury (d)*, and the recent case of *Rex v. The Mayor and Commonalty of York (e)*), that there was undoubtedly rateable property; and the only question was, whether there was a rateable occupation.

Thinking, therefore, as we do, that the first point is in favour of the appellants, we do not enter into the second, and upon that express no opinion.

The result is, that the order of sessions must be quashed.

S.

Order of sessions quashed.

(a) 5 *East*, 480.

(b) 5 *East*, 453.

(c) 13 *East*, 155.

(d) 1 *B. & C.* 289.

(e) 6 *A. & E.* 419.

FLETCHER *against* MARILLIER and another.

Friday,
January 11th.

TRESPASS for breaking and entering the dwelling-house of plaintiff, and continuing therein for a long space of time, and seizing divers goods and chattels of plaintiff then found and being in the said house.

In an action of trespass for breaking and entering the plaintiff's house and taking his goods, a special

plea, justifying an entry to seize goods fraudulently removed by the defendant's tenant, should be confined to the breaking and entry; and the property in the goods should be traversed in a separate plea.

Quære, whether, in trespass *de bonis &c.*, a special plea, shewing property in another, gives sufficient implied colour to the plaintiff, if it distinctly admits his possession?

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Plea.

1839.

—
FLETCHER
against
MARILLIER.

SC
1P+D
354

Plea. As to breaking, entering, and continuing in the dwelling-house and seizing the said goods and chattels, that one *J. Stent*, for the space of one quarter of a year ending 25th *December*, 1836, and from thence until and at the said time when &c., enjoyed a certain house &c. situate &c. as tenant thereof to defendant *Marillier*, by virtue of a certain demise by him to the said *J. Stent*, at the yearly rent of 18*l.* payable quarterly on &c. : that on the said 25th *December* 4*l.* 10*s.* was due for a quarter's rent, and continued due until the said time when &c. from *J. Stent* to *Marillier* : that the goods and chattels in the declaration mentioned, before the said time when &c., and after the rent became due and payable from *Stent* to the defendant *Marillier*, to wit on &c., they then being the property and in the possession of the said *J. Stent*, were wrongfully and fraudulently removed and taken by *Stent* from and out of the said house and premises so demised by *Marillier* to him with intent wrongfully to defraud *Marillier* of the said rent; and were then, with the privity and concert of plaintiff, placed and deposited by *Stent* in the dwelling-house in which &c., against the form of the statute in such case made and provided; and thereupon *Marillier*, in his own right, and the other defendant as his bailiff, the said rent being in arrear and there being no sufficient distress upon the demised premises, within thirty days next after the said goods and chattels had been so fraudulently removed as aforesaid, entered into the dwelling-house in which &c. (the outer door thereof being then open), in order to seize and take the said goods and chattels, and did then and within the said thirty days seize and take the said goods

goods and chattels so there found as a distress for the said arrears of rent &c.

Demurrer, assigning for causes, that defendants ought to have confined that part of their plea which related to the fraudulent removal of the goods to a justification of so much of the trespasses as related to the breaking and entering plaintiff's dwelling-house, and then to have traversed in a second plea that the goods were the plaintiff's, concluding to the county: that the part of the plea relating to the seizure of the goods of plaintiff found in the dwelling-house was argumentative in this, — that defendants, instead of simply traversing that the goods were the goods of the plaintiff, denied the same in a circuitous manner, by averring that they were then the property and in the possession of *Stent*: and that the plea, being bad in part, was bad altogether. Joinder.

The case was argued at the sittings in banc after *Michaelmas* term last (a).

Bayley for the plaintiff. The plea is founded on stat. 11 G. 2. c. 19. s. 1., and the action is by a third party, not the owner of the goods. *Thornton v. Adams* (b), decided that the statute applies only to goods which belonged to the tenant. Here the plea, though it alleges the goods to have belonged to the tenant when removed, does not show distinctly whether they were his property at the time of the seizure complained of. If the plea is to be considered as admitting property in the plaintiff, the justification fails, because the statute does not apply.

(a) November 30th, 1838. Before Lord Denman C. J., Patteson, Williams, and Coleridge Js.

(b) 5 M. & S. 38.

1839.

FLETCHER
against
MARILLIER.

1839.

—
FLETCHER
against
MARILLIER.

If it shews property in the tenant, then it is an argumentative denial of the property as alleged in the declaration, which ought to have been directly traversed.

Martin, contra. The plea, though it states a property in the tenant, shows a *possession* of the goods by the plaintiff, which would be sufficient against a wrongdoer unless explained (*a*). It does not indeed expressly state that the goods were, at the time of seizure, in the plaintiff's possession; but this sufficiently appears from the declaration, and is not denied by the plea. It is stated that the goods were placed in the plaintiff's house with her privity and consent. If the transfer of property from the tenant to the plaintiff was *bonâ fide* and for valuable consideration, so as to be within the exception of stat. 11 G. 2. c. 19. s. 2., the plaintiff should have replied it. If the defendant had traversed the plaintiff's property in the goods, the latter might have shewn a *bonâ fide* sale, and so defeated the plea. *Nelson v. Cherrell* (*b*) shews that the plea need not be confined to the entry into the plaintiff's house.

Bayley, in reply. The plea should have given colour, so as to shew an apparent cause of action by the plaintiff in respect of the goods. [*Martin*. The special causes of demurrer do not point to this objection.] It is stated that the plea is an argumentative, instead of a direct, denial of the property.

Cur. adv. vult.

(*a*) See *Heath v. Milward*, 2 New Ca. 98.; *Carnaby v. Welby*, 8 A. & E. p. 872.

(*b*) 7 Bing. 663.

Lord DENMAN C. J. now delivered the judgment of the Court. The question in this case was, whether the special plea should not have been confined to the breaking and entering the house. We are of opinion that it should have been so confined, and that the addition, in the introductory part of the plea, of the "seizing and taking the said goods and chattels," coupled with the justification in the body of the plea, renders it bad. The justification asserts that the goods were the property of one *Stent*; that they had been fraudulently removed by him from a house which he held as tenant to defendant, in order to avoid a distress for rent in arrear, and that they had been placed in the plaintiff's house with her privity and consent against the form of the statute; and then goes on to justify entering the house in order to seize the goods, and the seizing them under the provisions of 11 G. 2. c. 19. s. 7. If by this plea it be meant to deny that the goods, at the time of the seizure, were the goods of the plaintiff, the denial is plainly indirect and argumentative, and the plea is bad for that reason, which is assigned as cause of demurrer. If, on the other hand, the plea be taken to admit the goods to have been, at the time of the seizure, the goods of the plaintiff, then the plea is bad in not bringing the case within 11 G. 2. c. 19. That statute authorises the landlord to follow goods only which belonged to the tenant at the time of removal, and not even those, if *bonâ fide* transferred to an innocent person for value, that is, in effect, goods which, at the removal, were, and at the time of seizure continued to be, the goods of the tenant. It is obviously inconsistent with the right to seize under the statute to admit that, at the time of the seizure, they were the goods of the plaintiff, not being the tenant. But it is said that the plea

1839.

 FLATCHEE
 against
 MARILLIER.

1839.

—
FLETCHER
against
MARILLIER.

plea admits only the simple possession of the goods in the plaintiff, and goes on to shew that such possession was wrongful, and that the property was in *Stent*, and so that the plea is consistent. The answer is that the plea does not admit the possession to be in the plaintiff. The introductory words do not; for they are the same words which would be used to introduce a direct traverse of the goods being the goods of the plaintiff, and cannot, therefore, involve an admission of their being in her possession. The words of justification in the body of the plea do not; for they merely state the goods to have been the property and in the possession of *Stent*, and to have been placed in the plaintiff's house (not in her possession) with her privity.

Under these circumstances we need not consider what would have been the effect of a positive averment that the goods were in the possession of the plaintiff (a).

The uniform course of pleading under this statute, and also in cases of entering one man's house to seize the goods of another under a *f. fa.*, has been to confine the plea to the trespasses in regard to the house. The case of *Nelson v. Cherrell* (b) was cited *contra*, and there is also a case of *Rich v. Woolley* in the same volume (c). In the former it may be well doubted whether the pleadings are accurately reported, and in the latter it rather seems as if the plea was so confined. However, in neither case was the point raised.

S. Judgment for the plaintiff.

(a) Such a plea would resemble the plea of *liberum tenementum* in an action of trespass *quare clausum fregit*. See *Taylor and Fisher's Case*, 3 *Leon*, 266; *Cro. El.* 246.

(b) 7 *Bing.* 663.

(c) 7 *Bing.* 651.

1839.

In the Matter of PALMER and the HUNGERFORD Market Company.

IN *Hilary* term 1834 *John Palmer*, the tenant of a messuage called the *Globe* public house, part of the *Hungerford Market* estate, had obtained a rule nisi for a mandamus to the *Hungerford Market* Company, commanding them to issue a warrant to the high bailiff of *Westminster* to summon a jury pursuant to stat. 11 G. 4. c. lxx., local and personal public (incorporating the said company), for the purpose of assessing the damage and recompence to be given to him by way of compensation for improvements, tenant's fixtures, and otherwise in respect of the said messuage. By another subsequent rule, and by a Judge's order in *January* 1837, it was referred to a barrister "to look into the question," and dispose of the matters of the first-mentioned rule, and to award such compensation, if any, as he should think fit, with liberty to raise any points of law for the opinion of this Court if he should deem it necessary.

The arbitrator awarded that *Palmer* was not entitled to compensation for the improvements, and he set forth in his award the facts and circumstances on which the claim of compensation was grounded. The material facts are fully stated in the judgment of the Court. The compensation was claimed under sect. 19 of the above act, which provided that any person, tenant for years, from year to year, or at will, occupier of any part of the *Hungerford House* estate, who should or might sustain any loss, damage, or injury in respect of any interest

P. held premises under an agreement for one year, and afterwards to quit on three months' notice at any quarter day. He was not to underlet or give up possession to another, or make any alteration, without consent of his landlord; and was to leave for his landlord's benefit all improvements or additions made during his occupation. He made certain improvements, and was afterwards ejected upon due notice to quit. Held that he was not entitled to compensation for such improvements under sect. 19 of the *Hungerford Market Act* 11 G. 4. c. lxx.; although the notice to quit was given by reason of the passing of that act.

1839. interest whatsoever for good will, *improvements*, tenant's fixtures, or otherwise, which he then enjoyed, by reason of the passing of that act, should have and receive compensation from the company for such loss &c.

In the Matter of
PALMER
and the
HUNGERFORD
Market
Company.

The case was argued at the sittings in banc after *Michaelmas* term last (a), by *Platt* for *Palmer*, and *Hayward* for the company; but as the authorities cited by them are sufficiently noticed in the judgment, the argument is omitted.

Lord DENMAN C. J. in this term (*January* 12th) delivered the judgment of the Court.

This case arises upon a demand for compensation under the *Hungerford Market* Act, 11 G. 4. c. lxx., and the only question is, whether, under the circumstances hereinafter stated, *Palmer*, the applicant, is entitled to be compensated for improvements made by him during his occupation of premises, which the company have purchased and used for the purposes of the market. The occupation commenced under an agreement made *December* 28th, 1824, between *Palmer* and *Wise*, the then owner of the *Hungerford Market* estate, of which the premises were parcel, for one year commencing the 29th *September* preceding. The agreement contained the following stipulations — that if *Palmer*, with *Wise's* consent, should hold beyond the year, he should quit, or be at liberty to quit, at any (b) quarter day on receiving or giving three months' notice; that he should not underlet, or give up possession to any one,

(a) *November* 30th, 1838. Before Lord Denman C. J., *Patteson*, *Williams*, and *Coleridge* Ja.

(b) See note (c) to *Rex v. The Hungerford Market Company*, *Ex parte* *Gosling*, 4 B. & Ad. 600.

or make any alteration without the written consent of **1839.**
Wise. He was to keep all the glass entire, and so
 leave the same, together with all the articles mentioned
 in a schedule, and *all improvements or additions* to the
 premises, *which he should make during his occupation, for*
the benefit of Wise.

In the Matter of
 PALMER
 and the
 HUNGERFORD
 Market
 Company.

On the 31st July 1824, *Wise* had offered the *Hungerford Market* estate to Sir *T. Tyrwhitt*, on behalf of the intended market company; the offer was made on certain written terms, to which a decided answer was to be given in eight months. No answer was returned within that period, but, in *December* 1830, the purchase was completed. Notice to quit at *Michaelmas* 1830 was duly given by *Wise* on the 23d June preceding (a); and *Palmer* finally gave up possession in *April* 1831, after a verdict recovered in ejectment, wherein *Wise* and the *Hungerford Market Company* were severally lessors of the plaintiff.

In 1826, *Wise* gave *Palmer* leave to extend his bar, and during his occupation, and before the passing of the *Hungerford Market Act* (b), *Palmer* made certain other improvements. These were given up with the rest of the premises, and are valued at 44*l.* 10*s.*: the question now to be decided is, whether the company are bound to indemnify him for these improvements.

Upon the argument of this case, the several decisions

(a) The award found that the notice to quit was given, and that the premises were given up, "by reason of the passing of the act." It did not appear whether or not *Palmer* had notice of the treaty pending between Mr. *Wise* and the company for the sale of the estate at the time when he commenced his occupation, or when he made the improvements. See note (c) to *Ex parte Gosling*, 4 B. & Ad. 600.

(b) The act passed May 29th, 1830.

which

1839.

In the Matter of
PALMER
and the
HUNGERFORD
Market
Company.

which are reported upon the 17th and 19th sections the act, were cited. These are *Ex parte Farlow (a)*, *Ex parte Wright (b)*, *Ex parte Davies (c)*, *Ex parte Still (d)*, *Ex parte Gosling (e)*.

The principle upon which the court has proceeded in these cases in the construction of the act, is clear and satisfactory: it has been thought that the compensation clauses, the 17th and 19th, should be construed most liberally in favour of those who are to receive benefit from them, and most strongly against the company, who framed them; and it has further been considered, that the 19th clause must be extended to other than legal interests, which are provided for by the 17th. These principles, however, do not exclude an examination into the particular circumstances of each application; and where it has appeared that the party has in reality sustained no injury from the proceedings of the company, not merely in his legal or equitable interest, but not even according to any expectations which he may reasonably have entertained, the court has refused to interfere: therefore in *Ex parte Wright (b)*, the party was held entitled to no compensation who held under Mr. *Wise* on an agreement for one year certain, with liberty to the landlord afterwards to determine the tenancy in any year at three months' notice, and with a stipulation also that the tenant should not underlet, or give up possession of the premises, without leave in writing. Two other rules were discharged at the same time of parties applying under similar circumstances. This case is

(a) 2 B. & Ad. 341.

(b) 2 B. & Ad. 348. And see 4 B. & Ad. 600., note (c).

(c) 4 B. & Ad. 327.

(d) 4 B. & Ad. 592.

(e) 4 B. & Ad. 596.

shortly

shortly reported, but it did not pass without consideration, coming on soon after *Ex parte Farlow (a)*, when the act was fresh in the minds of the Court: and it has been treated as proceeding on a sound distinction in several cases that have followed. In one of these, *Ex parte Gosling (b)*, the applicant had covenanted to yield up the premises *with all fixtures and improvements*; upon which, although he was allowed compensation for the loss sustained in respect of good-will, or the chance of a beneficial renewal of his lease, on the authority of *Ex parte Farlow (a)*, he was held not entitled to any in respect of fixtures or improvements, though it was said the compensation jury might consider them so far as they added to the chance of a beneficial renewal.

In the present case they stand alone, and the applicant is in the same situation as *Wright* in respect of his general interest, and *Gosling* in respect of his improvements. It may fairly be collected that the peculiar stipulations which the agreement contains were introduced by *Wise*, with a view to completing his sale on more favourable terms for himself, by having an estate to dispose of, less incumbered with valuable interests in the tenants. *He* must be taken therefore to have received his compensation from the company in a higher price; and they will have to pay twice over for the same thing, if we were to hold the present applicant entitled. It is probable that in many cases where the facts left this matter doubtful, they have done so; but we think we ought not to proceed further than the line laid down in *Ex parte Farlow (a)*; and as this is precisely within *Ex*

1839.

In the Matter of
PALMER
and the
HUNGERFORD
Market
Company.

(a) 2 B. & Ad. 341.

(b) 4 B. & Ad. 596.

1889. *parte Wright (a)*, and the distinction taken in *Ex parte Gosling (b)*, and we think those cases rightly decided, the rule will be discharged.

In the Matter of
PALMER
and the
HUNGARON
Market
Company.

S.

Rule discharged.

(a) 2 B. & Ad. 348.

(b) 4 B. & Ad. 596.

PACK, *qui tam*, &c., against TARPLEY, Clerk.

Where the qualification of a justice of the peace is an ecclesiastical benefice, a sequestration, issued at the suit of a creditor, under which possession has been duly taken, and the profits received, is an "incumbrance affecting the estate" within stat. 18 G. 2. c. 20. s. 1.

In a penal action against the incumbent for acting as a justice without being qualified, the writ of sequestrari facias is admissible in evidence against him, although the judgment roll contains no entry of an award of the writ.

DEBT upon stat. 18 G. 2. c. 20. for the penalty of 100*l.* for acting as a justice of the peace without being duly qualified.

Plea. That at the time of so acting defendant had in law, to and for his own use and benefit, in possession, a freehold estate for life in lands, tenements, or hereditaments lying and being in that part of *Great Britain* called *England*, of the clear yearly value of 100*l.* over and above what would satisfy and discharge the incumbrances that affected the same, and over and above all rents and charges payable out of or in respect of the same. Verification. The replication traversed the allegation in the plea. A verdict was taken subject to a special case.

On the trial it was proved that, at the time when defendant acted as a justice of the peace, the vicarage of *Floore*, in the county of *Northampton*, of which place defendant was vicar, was of the annual value of 500*l.*; but that on the 8th of *April* 1834, a writ of sequestrari

Upon issuing such sequestration against a vicar, the bishop licensed him as a stipendiary curate; directed the sequestrator to pay him 120*l.* a year as such; and assigned to him the vicarage house and grounds as a residence, which were together worth above 100*l.* a year:

Held, 1. That the salary and the grounds, being enjoyed by assignment of the bishop, and not simply as vicar, were no qualification within the above statute: 2. That the vicar, being bound to reside notwithstanding sequestration, occupied the house by right as vicar, and not by the bishop's assignment, which *quoad hoc* was merely void; but that such house, unless proved to be alone worth 100*l.* a year, was no qualification.

facias

facias was issued out of the Court of King's Bench to the Bishop of *Peterborough* against defendant for levying the sum of 2270*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.* out of the vicarage. This writ purported to issue upon the return of the sheriff of *Northamptonshire* to a writ of fieri facias against the goods of defendant in a cause of *Watkins v. Tarpley (a)*.

An examined copy of the fieri facias, upon which the writ was issued, with the sheriff's return indorsed, was given in evidence. An examined copy of the judgment roll was also put in evidence, from which it appeared that there was no entry, upon the roll, of the sheriff's return or of the award of the writ of sequestrari facias, but merely an award of execution in the usual form. It being objected that, under these circumstances, the writ of sequestration could not be read in evidence, it was agreed that this objection should make part of the case.

Upon this writ the bishop issued a sequestration, which was published on 13th *April* 1834, and possession of the vicarage under it was taken on the next day (*b*).

The

1839.

PACK
against
TARPLEY.

(a) The writ of seq. fac. was in form similar to that given in *Tidd's Practical Forms*, p. 433. 6th ed.

(b) The form of the warrant under the writ was as follows: — "*Herbert*, by divine permission Bishop of *Peterborough*, to *Thomas Scriven*, of the town of *Northampton*, in the county of *Northampton*, Esquire, greeting. Whereas we have received a writ from our sovereign lord the King's Majesty, issuing out of the Court of King's Bench at *Westminster*, in the words following [*reciting the writ of seq. fac.*]; we, therefore, the bishop aforesaid, by virtue of his Majesty's writ before recited, and in obedience to the same, do decree all and singular the rents, tithes, oblations, obventions, fruits, issues, profits, and all other goods and emoluments whatsoever to the said vicarage and parish church of *Floore*, in the said county of *Northampton*, and within our said diocese, and all arrears of the same, to be sequestered, and by these presents do sequester the same, and also do constitute, appoint, and make you, the said *Thomas Scriven*, sequestrator of all and singular the rents, tithes, oblations, obventions, fruits, issues, profits, and all other goods and emoluments what-

1839.

PACK
against
TARPLEY.

The sequestrator proved that he had not applied any part of the profits of the living to this sequestration. Since taking possession he had received the rents and profits of the vicarage, not under the above writ and warrant of sequestration, but under a previous writ and

soever to the said vicarage belonging or appertaining, and all arrears of the same; requiring and commanding you in his Majesty's name, that, immediately upon receipt hereof, you do sequester, take, collect, and receive into your hands, possession, and safe custody, all and singular the rents, tithes, oblations, obventions, fruits, issues, profits, and all other goods and emoluments whatsoever to the said vicarage belonging or appertaining, in whose hands, possession, or occupation soever they now are or hereafter shall be, forthwith on your receipt hereof; all which said rents, tithes, oblations, fruits, issues, profits, and all other goods and emoluments whatsoever to the said vicarage belonging or appertaining, you shall keep in safe custody, selling such parts of them as may be likely to perish or suffer damage to those who will give the most money for them, for and towards the payment of the said debt due to the said *William Watkins*. This service you shall see faithfully and effectually performed according to the tenor of his Majesty's writ and of these presents, from which you shall not in anywise desist until you have done all that lieth in your power to do and perform therein; provided always, that out of the rents, tithes, oblations, obventions, fruits, issues, profits, and all other goods and emoluments whatsoever belonging to the said vicarage, you shall pay or cause to be paid all dues which are of right issuing out of the said vicarage and incumbent upon the vicar thereof to pay by reason of the same, and all and every such sum or sums of money as shall be by us or our successors assigned or directed to be paid to any person or persons whomsoever for serving the cure of the said parish church; and also that you do repair, and keep and leave in good and substantial repair, the vicarage house and other premises belonging to the said vicarage; and also, when and so often as you shall be thereunto lawfully called and required, make a just and true account of what shall be received and paid by you in pursuance or by virtue of the power hereby committed to you, but subject nevertheless to, and without prejudice to, a certain other sequestration of the said vicarage decreed by us, and issued on or about the 10th day of this present month of *April*, to you the said *Thomas Scriven*, for levying a debt of 95*l.* 2*s.* 10½*d.* due to *Thomas Marsh*. In witness whereof we have caused the seal of our vicar-general to be hereunto affixed. Dated" &c.

warrant

warrant of sequestration against the ecclesiastical goods of defendant in another cause, which were not given in evidence. Defendant had performed the clerical duties of the vicarage since the sequestration, and had the sum of 120*l.* a year assigned to him by the bishop for so doing, out of the proceeds of the vicarage, which sum he received from the sequestrator accordingly. The bishop's license was in the usual form, and directed the sequestrator to pay defendant 120*l.* a year for serving the church as stipendiary curate, and assigned to defendant the vicarage *house* as a residence. Defendant continued to occupy the vicarage house *and grounds*, which were proved to be worth above 100*l.* (a). An actuary called by defendant gave the following evidence, which was objected to, and the objection made part of the case, viz: — That the value of the defendant's life interest in the vicarage, estimating the living at 470*l.* per annum and the house at 100*l.* per annum, was 5425*l.*; excluding the house, 4638*l.* The surplus of the first estimate, after deducting the sequestration, was 3155*l.*; the surplus of the second, after the like deduction, was 2368*l.* For the lowest of these sums the defendant might purchase an annuity of more than 100*l.* a year for his life. It was proved that the sequestration poundage amounted, per annum, to 22*l.* 10*s.*, being at the rate of 5 per cent. on 450*l.*; that the repairs amounted, per annum, to 20*l.*;

1839.

 PACK
 against
 TARBLEY.

(a) In the judgment (post, p. 484.) it is taken for granted that the grounds, as well as the house, were assigned by the bishop. The special case stated, as above, the *assignment* of the house and the *occupation* of both. It is however not improbable that the license pursued the provisions of the Stipendiary Curates' Act, 57 G. 3. c. 99. s. 64., which enables the bishop to allot to the curate the house "with the offices, stables, gardens, and appurtenances thereto belonging." See also the late act, 1 & 2 Vict. c. 106. s. 93.

1839.

PACK
against
TARPLEY.

the land-tax to 15*l*. If these three sums, taking them as amounting to 50*l*., were to be deducted, and also the stipend of 120*l*. per annum, from the sum of 470*l*. (the annual value of the living exclusive of the house), it would leave a surplus of 300*l*. per annum. The value of defendant's life interest in that annual surplus was 2960*l*., which, deducting the sequestration, would leave 690*l*., a sum not sufficient to purchase an annuity of 100*l*. for defendant's life.

The case was argued at the sittings in banc after *Michaelmas* term last (*a*).

Sir *W. W. Follett*, for the plaintiff. 1. The living is no sufficient qualification while it continues under sequestration and the sequestrator is in possession. The defendant has no estate "in possession" until the whole debt is levied (*b*). In *Doe dem. Morgan v.*

Bluck,

(*a*) *November 27th, 1838. Before Lord Denman C. J., Patteson, Williams, and Coleridge Js.*

(*b*) The following sections of stat. 18 G. 2. c. 20. were cited in argument. Sect. 1 enacts that no person shall be capable of being a justice of the peace, or of acting as such, for any county, &c. within *England* or *Wales*, "who shall not have, either in law or equity, to and for his own use and benefit, in possession, a freehold, copyhold, or customary estate, for life, or for some greater estate, or an estate for some long term of years, determinable upon one or more life or lives, or for a certain term originally created for twenty-one years, or more, in lands, tenements, or hereditaments, lying or being in" *England* or *Wales*, "of the clear yearly value of 100*l*., over and above what will satisfy and discharge all incumbrances that affect the same, and over and above all rents and charges payable out of, or in respect of the same; or who shall not be seized of, or entitled unto, in law or equity, to and for his own use and benefit, the immediate reversion or remainder of and in lands, tenements, or hereditaments, lying or being as aforesaid, which are leased for one, two, or three lives, or for any term of years, determinable upon the death of one, two, or three lives, upon reserved rents, and which are of the clear yearly value of 300*l*." &c.

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Bluck (a) it was held, that though a rector whose glebe was sequestered was entitled to a verdict in ejectment upon a demise laid before the sequestration took effect, he could not have an habere facias possessionem, because he was no longer entitled to possession; and that case is recognised in *Bennett v. Apperley* (b). The sequestration is a continuing execution; the sequestrator must continue in possession until the debt is levied; and the bishop must return, not the writ, but the amount levied, from time to time; *Marsh v. Fawcett* (c). The defendant is a mere stranger, and has nothing but a salary assigned by the bishop, who is under no obligation to appoint him, and who may revoke his license at pleasure; 3 *Burn's Eccles. Law*, tit. *Sequestration*. The sequestrator is entitled to all the future profits, although not to the arrears of the living; *Waite v. Bishop* (d), *Rex v. Armstrong* (e). *Cottle v. Warrington* (g) only shews that a judgment alone, without sequestration, is not an incumbrance within the Registry Act 8 G. 2. c. 6., so as to affect the benefice. As to the fact of the sequestrator not being shewn to be in the actual receipt of the profits under the last writ, he was, at all events, entitled to enter and receive them; and if he did not do so, it was only because there was another and prior incumbrance.

1839.

 PACK
 against
 TABLET.

By sect. 6, where the lands, tenements, or hereditaments contained in the oath or notice, are, together with other lands, tenements, and hereditaments belonging to the person taking such oath, or delivering such notice, liable to any charges, rents, or incumbrances, it is enacted "that within the true intent and meaning, and for the purposes of this act, the lands" &c., "contained in the said oath or notice, shall be deemed and taken to be liable and chargeable, only so far as the other lands," &c. "so jointly charged, are not sufficient to pay, satisfy, or discharge the same."

(a) 3 *Camp.* 447.(b) 6 *B. & C.* 630.(c) 2 *H. Bl.* 582.(d) 1 *C. M. & R.* 507.(e) 2 *C. M. & R.* 205.(g) 5 *B. & Ad.* 447.

1839.

 PACK
 against
 TARBLEY.

2. This is an "incumbrance," or "charge payable out of or in respect of" the living. There are several cases on stat. 13 *Eliz. c. 20.*, which shew that a warrant of attorney given to the express intent that a sequestration may issue, is a charge within the meaning of that act; *Shaw v. Pritchard (a)*, *Flight v. Salter (b)*. In *Sharpe v. Thomas (c)*, a warrant of attorney, given by an insolvent for the purpose of having judgment entered up and execution issued against his effects, was held to be a "charge" on his property within the meaning of 7 *G. 4. c. 57. s. 32.*

3. As to the points of evidence reserved in the case. It is immaterial to inquire whether an annuity of the requisite value could be bought for the value of the defendant's interest; the question is, whether he was in possession of a sufficient estate of freehold; if he was not, the value is unimportant. [*Lord Denman C. J.* On this point we will hear the other side.] 4. The sequestration was properly in evidence. The record and the writs themselves were produced: an entry of the award of them is never made in practice, and it is not necessary to make it merely with a view to their admissibility in evidence. Entries of this kind on the roll, when required, are permitted to be made at any time; *Taylor v. Gregory (d)*.

Waddington, contra. 1. The writ of sequestration was not admissible without shewing that it issued by award of the Court. In *Ramsbottom v. Buckhurst (e)*, an examined copy of the judgment roll, with the award of an elegit, and return of the inquisition, was held to be the

(a) 10 *B. & C.* 241.(b) 1 *B. & Ad.* 673.(c) 6 *Bing.* 416.(d) 2 *B. & Ad.* 257.(e) 2 *M. & S.* 565.

proper evidence of the elegit, and of the title of the tenant by elegit. *Dampier J.* there says, that "a copy of the elegit and inquisition would not have been such good evidence." In *Doe dem. Bland v. Smith (a)*, it was held that where the execution creditor brings ejectment as assignee of the sheriff, it is not enough to produce the writ of *f. fa.*, without also shewing the judgment. A writ only proves itself when the action is against an officer acting under it. Here too the case is stronger, for the objection is, not merely that the judgment was not produced, but that when produced, it was found deficient, and therefore proved that no writ was awarded. 2. Supposing the writ admissible, it was proved that the sequestrator had not in fact taken any thing under it, because, as it was alleged, there was another prior writ of which there was no legal evidence. Therefore the *prima facie* qualification proved by the defendant was not disproved by such clear evidence of a subsisting charge as ought to have been given in this penal action. 3. The principal question is, whether the defendant had, at the time of acting, a sufficient estate of freehold in possession, over and above all incumbrances or charges, within the statute. *Doe dem. Morgan v. Bluck (b)* only shews that ejectment will not lie; but that is not material, for one who has an unquestionable estate of freehold sufficient to qualify him, may nevertheless preclude his own entry by a demise. The words "in possession," in sect. 1. are used in opposition to the words "in reversion or remainder" in the same section. Nor is the sequestration "a charge." The real character of a sequestrator is that of bailiff to the bishop, for the purpose of receiv-

1839.

 PACK
 against
 TAPLEY.
(a) *Holt. N. P. C.* 589.(b) 3 *Camp.* 447.

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1889.

PACK
against
TARPLEY.

ing the profits and paying the debt out of part of them. The history and nature of the writ, and the character and duties of the bishop and sequestrator, are stated very clearly in *Arbuckle v. Cowtan* (a), and in *Hubbard v. Beckford* (b), where it was held that the sequestrator was liable for dilapidations. In the former case Lord *Alvanley* observes that possession is not given under the writ. The incumbent is not displaced, but he and his family are to be suitably maintained by the sequestrator out of the profits, 3 *Burn. Ecc. Law*. tit. *Sequestration*, p. 341. 8th ed. Even, if the whole profits were absorbed, it would not be a charge within the statute. The import of the word in other statutes has been under discussion in many cases. In *Moncaster v. Watson* (c), where lands allotted under an enclosure act were made "subject to the same charges and incumbrances" as the other lands of the owners, to which they were allotted and consolidated, it was held that the allotments were not thereby made liable to certain church repairs chargeable on the other lands; for that the words meant only incumbrances *on the estate*, as dower &c. The word "charge" must be taken to refer to some liability imposed, either by the law or by a deed, on the estate itself, like a rent-charge or a jointure. If such is the interpretation in ordinary cases and in remedial acts, it ought, *à fortiori*, to be adopted where the statute is a penal one; *Hyde v. Cogan* (d), *Bones v. Booth* (e). Cases under stat. 13 *Eliz. c. 20.* have been cited to shew that the sequestration is a charge. If it be so, then it is void by that act, and the benefice is unincumbered. But

(a) 3 *B. & P.* 321.(b) 1 *Hagg. Consist. Rep.* 307.(c) 3 *Burr.* 1375.(d) 2 *Dougl.* 699.(e) 2 *W. Bl.* 1226.

in none of the cases upon that act has a sequestration alone been considered as a charge. In *Colebrook v. Layton* (a), a warrant of attorney given with a view to a sequestration was held to be no charge, because it was not sufficiently connected with the deed by which an annuity had been charged on the benefice; and *Patterson J.* there says "it must appear that their intention of charging the benefice has in fact been accomplished; in other words, that the benefice is by the warrant of attorney so far actually charged, that the party to whom the warrant of attorney is given, following the authority which it confers, would, but for the provisions of the statute of *Elizabeth*, obtain an actual charge on the living. Now, whatever may have been the intention of the parties here, it is quite clear to my mind that they have not, by this warrant of attorney, charged the living." This case is recognised in *Salmarsh v. Hewett* (b); and in *Aberdeen v. Newland* (c) the Vice-Chancellor held a similar warrant of attorney, followed by judgment and sequestration, to be no charge within the statute, though given as an additional security for an annuity charged on the benefice. *Newland v. Watkin* (d) seems contrary, but the distinction is, that there the defeasance of the warrant expressly referred to the annuity granted out of the benefice. [Lord Denman C. J. The cases were all cited in the late one of *Moore v. Ramsden* (e).] All these cases must be reconsidered if a mere sequestration is a charge. *Sharpe v. Thomas* (g) was a case of liberal construction of a remedial statute, and went on the express ground

1839.

 PACK
against
TAMBLEY.

(a) 4 B. & Ad. 578.

(b) 1 A. & E. 812. 820.

(c) 4 Sim. 281.

(d) 9 Bing. 113. See the judgment in 2 Mo. & Scott, 174.

(e) 7 A. & E. 898.

(g) 6 Bing. 416.

of

1839. of fraud. If there had been no fraud, the decision would have been different, and in favour of the present defendant, as appears from *Doe. dem. Mitchinson v. Carter* (a). 4. Supposing the sequestration valid and the sequestrator in possession, yet the incumbent has a right to reside in, and to occupy, the parsonage house and grounds; and these are found, in the present case, to be worth 100*l.* a year. Until deprived for misconduct he has an exclusive right to perform all the duties of his office, even as against the bishop: this right is admitted in the ecclesiastical courts, *Bliss v. Woods* (b), *Williams v. Brown* (c), and is recognised incidentally by this Court in *Farnworth v. Bishop of Chester* (d). He is bound to reside notwithstanding sequestration; *Doe. dem. Rogers v. Mears* (e); and the residence must be in the parsonage house, *Law v. Ibbetson* (g). Stat. 57 G. 3. c. 99, recognises throughout the same obligation. His residence, therefore, is not by appointment of the bishop, who has no right to convert him into a stipendiary curate, nor to give to the sequestrator any interest in the house. 5. The incumbent, having a right to officiate, is also entitled to receive the salary appointed to be paid by the sequestrator. It is not a mere stipend or pension voluntarily assigned to him by the bishop, but a vested right belonging to him in his character of vicar to which the sequestration is subsidiary and subject. [*Coleridge J.* May not the bishop reduce it below 100*l.* at any time? and if so, is it not difficult to say that the defendant has a freehold worth 100*l.* per annum?] The question is, what was the value in the very year in which

PACK
against
TARPLEY.

(a) 8 T. R. 57. 300.

(c) 1 Curteis, Eccl. Rep. 53.

(e) Cowp. 139.

(b) 3 Hagg. Eccl. Rep. 486.

(d) 4 B. & C. 555.

(g) 5 Burr. 2722.

he was acting? Any freehold estate may happen to be of less than its average value in one year. In *Cathcart v. Hardy* (a), "annual value" in stat. 43 G. 3. c. 84 was held to mean average annual value. It need not be of the same value for life, for it is impossible to prove its value in future. He has an estate for life of which the value has been ascertained by the bishop. It is worth what it produces to him. He derives his right to receive it from the law, and not from the bishop, and he has received during the year past, as of right, 100*l*. and upwards out of his own estate. This is a sufficient qualification. The mere discharge of his debts is of value to him. The estate is not taken as on elegit, but the profits are put in a certain channel of payment for his benefit, *i. e.* for the payment of his creditors. In equity a trust to pay creditors is treated as a trust for the debtor himself; *Wallwyn v. Coutts* (b), *Garrard v. Lord Lauderdale* (c). 6. If the value for that one year be insufficient, then the average annual value, as calculated by the actuary independently of the stipend, is important. The evidence tendered proves that, calculating the whole value of the defendant's life-interest in his benefice, and deducting from it the whole amount of the sequestration, he is still possessed of an estate for life of the required value:

Sir *W. W. Follett*, in reply. As to proof of the sequestration, production of the roll was only necessary to shew that there was a judgment. [*Patteson J. Ramsbottom v. Buckhurst* (d) only shews that the roll, if it contained an award of the writ, would be sufficient evi-

1839.

 PACK
against
TABLET.
(a) 2 *M. & S.* 534.(c) 3 *Sim.* 1.(b) 3 *Meriv.* 707.(d) 2 *M. & S.* 565.

dence

1839.

 PACK
 against
 TARTLEY.

dence of the writ; not that the writ itself was not evidence. *Coleridge J.* On proving the judgment and producing the writ, it is to be presumed that the latter issued in pursuance of the former.] It is not contended that the sequestration took any estate out of the defendant; but that it takes the profits out of him. His interest in them is gone upon the publication of the writ (*a*). When the defendant is unable to bring ejectment by reason of the prior and paramount right of another, he cannot be said to be in possession. The bishop is in possession. The defendant may still have the freehold, but he has it not in possession; at all events, not in possession to his own use. The authorities cited shew that sequestrators are bound to do repairs and other duties of the incumbent in consequence of their perception of the profits. Suppose a freeholder parts with all the rents of his estate, or suffers them all to be taken under an elegit (as they now may be), can he any longer vote for county members? [*Patteson J.* You may also put the case of a tenant for life who has leased for a term reserving no rent.] The cases on stat. 13 *Eliz. c. 20.* are in point. The incumbent, being forbidden to charge his benefice, is not permitted to do it indirectly by an instrument made with that object, and the warrant of attorney, though not itself a charge, is set aside as a fraud on the statute, because the intention is to put the benefice under sequestration. The sequestration is a charge, but is a void one only where it is, indirectly, the act of the incumbent himself. [*Patteson J.*

(*a*) That a sequestrator has no interest or estate, see *Berwick v. Swanton*, cited *Bunb.* 192. note; *Attorney-General v. Mayor of Coventry*, 1 *P. Wms.* 307; *Walwyn v. Auberry*, 1 *Mod.* 258.

It hardly follows that the construction of the two acts should be the same—a sequestration issued in invitum is not within stat. 13 *Eliz. c. 20.*] Where the words are the same, and are plain, there is no good ground for giving a different construction to a penal and a remedial statute; 2 *Dwarris on Statutes*, 737. A charge of this kind is exactly within the intent of stat. 18 *G. 2. c. 20.*, which purports to provide against “persons of mean estate” acting as justices. Then as to the house and grounds which the defendant continues to occupy, it is not found that the former alone is worth 100*l.* per annum; and although it may be true that the sequestrator has no right to the house (for which, however, there is no authority), it is clear that he is entitled to the glebe and grounds. The defendant’s possession of the latter can be merely by the license of the bishop. *Doe dem. Rogers v. Mears*(a) only shews that a sequestration is no excuse for non-residence. The salary of 120*l.* cannot be taken as the profits of the freehold. If the defendant chooses to assert his right to officiate as incumbent, and not as curate, the bishop is not bound to assign any salary at all. It is only as stipendiary curate that he receives the salary, which may be either reduced or assigned to a third party in place of the defendant, at the will of the bishop. To form a qualification it should be incident to the freehold, and not dependent on the will of the bishop. The cases cited of trusts for the benefit of creditors are inapplicable.

Cur. adv. vult.

LORD DENMAN C. J., in this term (*January 24th*) delivered the judgment of the Court.

(a) *Cowp.* 129.

This

1839.

PACK
against
TARPLAT.

1839.

PACK
against
TARPLEY.

This was an action brought upon the statute 18 G. 2. c. 20., for a penalty of 100*l.* against the defendant for acting as a justice of the peace without a proper qualification. By the 3d section of the act, the proof of qualification lies on the defendant; and that qualification is contained in the 1st section, which enacts: [His Lordship here read the section, see p. 472. note (b), antè]. The case finds that the defendant is incumbent of a vicarage of the annual value of 500*l.*; that a writ of sequestrari facias was issued against him on the 8th April 1834, at the suit of one *Watkins*, for 2270*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*; that the bishop issued a sequestration, which was published on the 13th April 1834, and possession taken under it; that the sequestrator has ever since received the rents and profits of the vicarage, but has not applied them to this, but to a previous sequestration, which was not given in evidence; that the bishop, by his licence, assigned to the defendant the vicarage house as a residence, and the sum of 120*l.* per annum for serving the church as stipendiary curate, which stipend the defendant has received, and has resided in the vicarage house before and since the sequestration, performing the duty; and that the vicarage house and grounds were worth above 100*l.* a year. It was objected, on the part of the defendant, that the writ of sequestrari facias was not admissible in evidence, because the judgment roll in *Watkins v. Tarpley* contained no entry of an award of the writ; but no authority was shewn for the necessity of such entry, nor do we think it at all important.

Again, it was objected that nothing was applied by the sequestrator under this writ, and that it was not shewn by any legal evidence how the profits of the vicarage

vicarage were disposed of. The answer is, that the sequestrator is shewn to have been in possession under the writ, and to have received the profits; whether he has disposed of them properly is immaterial to the present question. Much discussion took place as to the meaning of the words "in possession," in the first section of the act; whether they are used solely in contradistinction to the words "in reversion or remainder" in the latter part of the clause, or have reference to the actual possession also: and the words "to his own use and benefit" were also much commented on. But as our decision turns upon the part of the clause relating to incumbrances and charges, it is not necessary to give any opinion on the other parts. The question is, whether it appears by the facts found, that the defendant has an estate for life of the clear yearly value of 100*l.* over and above what will satisfy and discharge all incumbrances that affect the same.

Now, whatever may be the true construction of the statute of 13 *Eliz. c. 20.* as to charges upon benefices, and whatever may be the proper rule to be established from the various cases decided under that act, we can have no hesitation in holding that a sequestration is an incumbrance that affects the defendant's estate for life in his vicarage within the meaning of the act of parliament. The clear yearly value of 100*l.* contemplated by the act, is plainly that which comes into the pocket of the owner of the estate as such, after all other demands upon it are satisfied; and we are to see whether, upon the facts stated, such clear yearly sum of 100*l.* does come into the defendant's pocket as vicar. The difficulty in the case arises from his continuing to reside and occupy the house and grounds which are found to

1839.

 PACK
 against
 TABLET.

1839.

PACK
against
TARPLEY.

be above the yearly value of 100*l*. If he be in the occupation of them by right as vicar, notwithstanding the sequestration, and could not be put out from them or compelled to pay any rent for them by any proceeding whatever, it is impossible to say that he has not an estate for life in them, or say that they are affected by the sequestration; and if not, their value is sufficient. Now, with respect to the house, it seems clear that the defendant is in the occupation as vicar, and that the assignment of it to him as a residence by the bishop is merely void, inasmuch as the incumbent is bound to reside notwithstanding any sequestration, and the bishop could not turn him out, nor change his character from that of vicar to that of stipendiary curate. But it is not found by the case that the house alone is of the yearly value of 100*l*.; and as the onus lies on the defendant, we cannot presume it to be so. The grounds and stipend must therefore be taken into consideration, and with respect to them the case is very different. The sequestrator might undoubtedly let the grounds as well as any other part of the glebe, and raise a profit towards the purposes of the writ; and though they are not so let, but assigned to the defendant by the bishop (*a*), they, as well as the stipend of 120*l*. also assigned him by the bishop, are by no means enjoyed by him simply as vicar in his own right. The amount of the stipend seems to be in the discretion of the bishop, though probably that discretion would be exercised with reference to the salaries specified in the Stipendiary Curates' Acts, in which case the stipend could not be less in respect of the vicarage in question than 120*l*. (*b*); and though the

(*a*) See note, *antè*, p. 471.

(*b*) See the late stat. 57 G. 3. c. 99. s. 55, 56. repealed by stat. 1 & 2 Vict. c. 106.

bishop

bishop cannot appoint any person to serve the church either instead of, or in addition to, the vicar (a), and cannot by his license alter the vicar's character, and must assign to him the proper stipend out of the profits of the living, prior to any other payments, yet we are of opinion that the defendant, as regards the grounds and stipend, takes under the bishop, and not simply as vicar, and that his enjoyment of the grounds and stipend arises out of, and is under, the sequestration; so that it cannot be said in fact or in law that the defendant has an estate of the clear yearly value of 100*l.* over and above all incumbrances that affect the same. For these reasons we are of opinion that the defendant has failed to establish his qualification, and our judgment must be for the plaintiff.

S.

Judgment for the plaintiff.

(a) But see now stat. 1 & 2 Vict. c. 106. s. 99.

The QUEEN *against* SPENCER.Friday,
January 11th.

GEORGE RANGER was convicted by two justices in petty sessions, under a penal statute, on the information of *Henry Spencer*. The conviction was quashed by an order of quarter sessions, with costs to be paid by the convicting justices. *Spencer* obtained a certiorari to remove the order of sessions into this Court, but did not enter into the recognisances prescribed by stat. 5 G. 2. c. 20. s. 2.; and on this ground

The enactment 5 G. 2. c. 19. s. 2. that orders of justices shall not be removed by certiorari unless recognisance be given by the party removing, does not apply to writs of certiorari sued out by a prosecutor. And therefore, where a

conviction had been quashed by order of sessions, and the informer obtained a certiorari to remove such order, the Court refused to quash the writ on the ground that no recognisances had been given.

Barstow

1839.

 PACK
against
TARPLEY.

1839.

**The QUEEN
against
SPENCER.**

Barstow now moved that the writ of certiorari and the allowance thereof should be quashed (a). The question is, whether a certiorari can be obtained by a subject to remove an order of justices, without entering into recognisances. The practice has not been to require them in the case of orders made against a prosecutor; and in *Rex v. Boulbee* (b) it was held that a clause taking away certiorari did not bind the Crown, and consequently did not affect a prosecutor who, by the quashing of a conviction, had become defendant. But the present question has never been distinctly brought before the Court. The enactment itself is general, and provides that "no certiorari" shall be allowed without recognisance given by the party suing it out.

Lord DENMAN C. J., after reading sect. 2 of stat. 5 G. 2. c. 19., said: The view of the Court has been that this section applied only where the defendant removed the order; and the practice has been grounded upon that. We ought not now to interfere with it.

LITLEDALE, WILLIAMS, and COLERIDGE Js. concurred.

Rule refused.

(a) He stated that the motion had been made before *Littledale J.* on summons, but dismissed, with leave to apply to the Court.

(b) 4 A. & E. 498.

1839.

Friday,
January 11th.BOORMAN and Others *against* BROWN.

CASE. The declaration stated that, before and at the time &c., plaintiffs carried on the business of linseed crushers at *Branbridges* in *Kent*, and defendant was an oil broker in *London*: that plaintiffs retained and employed defendant, as such broker, to sell for them certain quantities, to wit thirty tons, of linseed oil, and to deliver the same in the port of *London*, according to the terms of the contract or contracts of sale, to the purchaser or purchasers, for reasonable commission and reward to defendant in that behalf; which retainer and employment defendant accepted, and, in pursuance thereof, and being duly authorised by plaintiffs and one *Peacock* in that behalf, made a contract between the plaintiffs and *Peacock*, whereby plaintiffs sold to him and he purchased of them the said thirty tons of linseed oil, at the price &c., to be delivered in the river *Thames* &c. (by successive parcels of ten tons each), the amount of each parcel to be paid for from delivery in ready money: which contract the plaintiffs and *Peacock* respectively accepted: averment, that two of such parcels were consigned by plaintiffs to defendant, and delivered by him on payment, according to the contract: that, after the making of the contract, and in pursuance thereof, and of such retainer &c., to wit on &c., plaintiff whom *E.* supposed to have proper authority, but who really had not, desired *E.* to carry them alongside a certain vessel, which he did without orders from *B.*, and the goods were taken away, as on behalf of the purchaser; that *E.* informed *B.* of what had happened, and, upon hearing that *B.* had given no orders, said it was not too late to stop the goods, and he would do so; but that *B.* prevented him, and did not, himself, take proper measures to stop them:

Held, that *E.* was incompetent by reason of his liability to the plaintiffs as their servant.

1839.

BOORMAN
against
BROWN.

tiffs consigned to defendant as such broker at *London* aforesaid, by a barge or vessel called the *Barham*, ten other tons &c., being the residue of the said thirty tons &c., to be delivered by defendant to *Peacock*, on payment of the price by *Peacock* to defendant; and that the last-mentioned ten tons, being so consigned, afterwards, to wit on &c., arrived in *London* on board the said vessel; of all which defendant had notice, and took upon himself the delivery of the last-mentioned ten tons according to the contract; and thereupon it became and was his duty, as such broker, to use all reasonable care and diligence that the ten tons should not be delivered to *Peacock* or any other person without the price being paid to defendant according to the terms of the contract: yet defendant, not regarding his said duty, but contriving &c., did not nor would use reasonable care &c. (following the words of the averment as to duty), but wholly neglected and refused so to do, and so negligently and carelessly behaved in the premises that, by and through the mere carelessness &c. of defendant, the last-mentioned ten tons, after the arrival thereof at *London*, to wit on &c., were delivered to certain persons trading under the firm of *John Hare and Co.* at *Bristol*, without the price or any part thereof being paid by *Peacock* or any other person to defendant. By reason whereof, and of *Peacock* having become bankrupt and being unable to pay &c., plaintiffs have lost and been deprived of the oil and the price thereof.

Pleas. 1. Not Guilty. 2. That plaintiff did not consign to defendant, nor did defendant take upon himself the delivery of, the ten tons of oil, in manner and form &c.: conclusion to the country. 3. That plaintiffs did not retain and employ defendant as such broker to sell

sell and deliver the oil for commission &c., nor did defendant accept such retainer &c.: conclusion to the country. Issues thereon.

On the trial before Lord *Denman* C. J., at the sittings in *London* after *Hilary* term, 1837, the plaintiffs proved a contract between them and *Peacock* for the sale to him of three parcels of oil, as stated in the declaration, to be respectively paid for on delivery; and that the third parcel, of ten tons, arrived in the *Thames*, consigned to the defendant, who was an oil and seed broker, and acted as such broker for the plaintiffs, to be delivered to *Peacock* in pursuance of the contract. To prove the circumstances of the delivery, they called *Thomas Easton*, from whose custody the oil was delivered. *Easton*, at the time in question, lived near the wharf at which the oil arrived, and was a lighter-man and ledgerman. By the latter term is meant an inspector of corn and seed, and a person who attends to the delivery of such goods. The plaintiffs had for some time employed the witness to deliver goods for them according to the orders of the brokers; which he did, communicating such orders to the captains. He was paid by the plaintiffs. Sir *J. Campbell*, Attorney-General, on behalf of the defendant, objected that the witness was inadmissible, because, if he had allowed the delivery without authority from *Brown*, he was liable for the costs of this action, and therefore he was interested in representing that *Brown* authorised the delivery. The objection was over-ruled. The witness proved that, on the arrival of the ten tons, he communicated it to the defendant, who would not at that time allow them to be landed; that, on a second interview, the defendant said he had not seen the parties, and that the witness must wait till two o'clock, when he should

1839.

BOORMAN
against
BROWN.

1839.

BOORMAN
against
BROWN.

see or hear from defendant: that afterwards, on the same day, a person whom the witness had seen on *Peacock's* premises, and described as his man, came to the witness and ordered the oil to be taken alongside a vessel called the *Success*, which was done, and the oil delivered on board that vessel without payment; that, on the following day, the witness told the defendant of the oil having been shipped, whereupon the defendant said that he had given no orders; the witness then said that it was not too late to stop the oil, and he would do so, but the defendant desired that he would not, and said he himself would see the parties on the subject. Some other facts were stated to shew that the defendant had neglected to stop the goods, and had taken upon himself the responsibility of their being delivered. The witness also said that he himself had no means of knowing, nor was it his business to know, whether goods, of which he had the delivery, were paid for or not. *Peacock* did not pay, and became bankrupt. The Lord Chief Justice left it to the jury to say whether the defendant had caused the loss by his negligent conduct; and the plaintiff had a verdict. In the ensuing term, a rule nisi was obtained for a new trial, on the ground that *Easton's* evidence ought not to have been received. In *Michaelmas* term 1838,

Cresswell and *Cleasby* shewed cause (a). *Easton* was competent. The plaintiffs employed *Brown* to give orders for the delivery of their goods, but not without payment; and *Easton* to effect the delivery under his orders. It was no part of *Easton's* business to see that the goods were paid for. If *Brown* failed in his duty

(a) November 21st. Before Lord Denman C. J., Patteson, Williams, and Coleridge Js.

by reason of *Easton's* neglect, and was thereby put in jeopardy, *Easton* was liable to him, but not to the plaintiffs. The question here being whether *Brown* had neglected his duty by delivering the goods unpaid for, if the plaintiffs succeeded upon that issue, *Easton* was not protected, for they had no ground of action against him if they failed; and, if *Brown*, having judgment against him in this action, sued *Easton*, the record, far from protecting *Easton*, would be evidence for *Brown*. *Easton* was called to prove, not merely a giving up of the goods without payment, but likewise that *Brown* might have stopped them afterwards, and did not. In reality, the act of *Easton* in shipping the oil did not constitute a delivery; that could only be perfected by *Brown's* assent, whenever given. *Easton* and *Brown* are not liable, as co-trespassers are, in respect of one and the same transaction; the duty was not the same, nor the neglect the same. This distinguishes the present case from *Morish v. Foote (a)*, where, in an action for negligence in driving a mail-coach against the plaintiff's waggon-horse, the waggoner was held incompetent for the plaintiff by reason of his liability to his own master. The correctness of that decision may be questioned. In *Green v. The New River Company (b)*, which was there cited for the defendant, the witness rejected was the defendants' servant: a verdict against the employers would have been evidence, as measuring the damages in an action brought by them against the servant; but a verdict for the defendant in a similar case would prove nothing in an action by the plaintiff against his servant (c). It is sufficient, however, to say that in *Morish v. Foote (a)* the breach of duty complained of in the master was the

1839.

 BOORMAN
 against
 BROWN.

(a) 8 Taunt. 454.

(b) 4 T. R. 589.

(c) See 1 Phill. on Ev. 95—102. Part 1. c. 7. 8th ed.

1839.

BOORMAN
against
BROWN.

same which he might afterwards have charged upon the servant; here the failure on *Brown's* part was delivering the goods without payment; but *Easton* had nothing to do with the payment, and was merely to deliver according to *Brown's* directions. [*Patteson J.* Suppose he acted without any order from *Brown.*] Then the recovery in this case would not protect him from an action at the suit of the plaintiffs: both parties might be liable; *Easton* for shipping the goods on board the *Success* without orders, and *Brown* for assenting to that shipment as a delivery. There is, in truth, no ground for saying that the plaintiffs could maintain any action against *Easton*, or, at all events, that they could recover more than nominal damages; but, if he were liable to these, he is not on that account interested in procuring a verdict against *Brown*. The case, therefore, differs from all those in which the witness has been held incompetent because the result of the trial would convict or acquit himself of misconduct. The interest which disqualifies a witness must be present and certain, not uncertain or contingent; 1 *Stark. on Ev.* 103. (2d. ed.). In *Cuthbert v. Gostling (a)*, where the action was for injury done to the plaintiff's wall in repairing the defendant's own house, the defendant proposed to call the workmen whom he had employed; they were objected to on the ground that, if they had been guilty of excess and the plaintiff recovered, they would be liable over to the defendant; but Lord *Ellenborough* over-ruled the objection, saying "it by no means followed that they would be liable to the defendant, if the plaintiff had a verdict; nor did it appear that they were at all interested in the event of the suit." So here, when the defendant argues that, if he is not liable, *Easton* is, that ought dis-

(a) 3 *Camp.* 515.

tinctly

tinctly to appear : but the facts do not shew it; for, if *Easton* acted under the influence of fraud or excusable mistake, he is not even *primâ facie* liable. And, supposing that he has been guilty of misconduct, he is answerable to one or other of the present parties, whether this action succeeds or fails.

1839.

BOOKMAN
against
BROWN.

Sir *J. Campbell*, Attorney General, and *Butt*, contra. There was no privity between *Easton* and *Brown*. *Brown's* duty was, as broker, to receive the price of the goods, and not order the delivery of them without payment; *Easton's* duty, to superintend the delivery and give directions to the captain, but not to deliver the goods without order from *Brown*. *Easton*, then, was servant to the plaintiffs, and liable to them only. The object of his evidence was to prove a *primâ facie* negligence in himself, but to redeem the consequences of it by shewing that, after he had delivered the oil without *Brown's* order, *Brown* might have stopped it but would not. The rule excluding testimony of a servant or agent in cases of this kind is supported not only by *Morish v. Foote* (a), but by a long train of other authorities: *Martyn v. Hendrickson* (b), *De Symonds v. De La Cour* (c), *Protheroe v. Elton* (d), *Miller v. Falconer* (e). [*Patteson J.* In that case Lord *Ellenborough* seems to assume that either the defendant or the witness must have been in fault; but I think that is not a necessary assumption. *Coleridge J.* It may be that neither was in fault. Lord *Denman C. J.* I think we must take it

(a) 8 *Taunt.* 454.(b) 1 *Salk.* 287. *S. C.* 2 *Ld. Ray.* 1007.(c) 2 *New Rep.* 374.(d) Cited in *Morish v. Foote*, 8 *Taunt.* 457. Reported, as *Rotheroe v. Elton*, 1 *Peake's N. P. C.* 117. 3d ed.(e) 1 *Camp.* 251.

1839.

BOORMAN
against
BROWN.

for granted, in that and similar cases, that the opening was such as to raise that inference.] Here a distinct imputation of negligence lay upon *Easton*, and he sought to throw the responsibility upon *Brown*. *Kerrison v. Coatsworth* (a), *Whitmore v. Waterhouse* (b), *Sherman v. Barnes* (c), and *Wake v. Lock* (d) are further authorities for the rule now relied upon. [*Patteson J.* It is said, in *Miller v. Falconer* (e), that the witness "comes to discharge himself." I have a difficulty in seeing how, in the present case, the witness could avail himself of the verdict if the plaintiffs afterwards brought an action against him. *Williams J.* If the plaintiffs had failed in this action, how would the record have been available against *Easton*?] First, though the success of the plaintiffs in this cause would not be a complete discharge to *Easton*, yet, if they recovered damages against *Brown*, *Easton* would be relieved to that extent. He would therefore derive a material advantage from the result of his evidence. The expression in some of the cases, that the witness comes to "discharge" himself, is loose; but any interest, whatever be its amount, disqualifies. Secondly, the verdict here, if the plaintiffs had failed, might have been evidence against *Easton*. They might have brought an action against him, alleging that, in consequence of his representation as to *Brown's* negligence, they sued *Brown* and failed. [*Patteson J.* Is there any instance of such an allegation of special damage? The argument would apply to almost every witness whose evidence is relied upon by a plaintiff.] The supposition here is, that the witness had himself been guilty of

(a) 1 Car. & P. 645.

(c) 1 M. & Rob. 69.

(e) 1 Camp. 251.

(b) 4 Car. & P. 383.

(d) 5 Car. & C. 454.

misconduct

misconduct in the transaction; then the allegation would be that, a loss having been occasioned by his negligence, he represented to the plaintiffs that it was owing to misconduct in *Brown*, upon which representation they brought an action against *Brown*, and failed. The distinction between witnesses for a plaintiff and for a defendant was taken in *Morish v. Foote (a)*; but *Burrough J.* said, "it would introduce an extreme anomaly in the law if it made any difference in cases of this nature, whether a witness was called on one side or on the other." The argument here, that the witness was liable to an action at the suit of *Brown*, and therefore stood indifferent, cannot prevail. [Lord *Denman C. J.* We do not think that argument entitled to any weight.]

Cur. adv. vult.

LORD DENMAN C. J. now delivered the judgment of the Court.

This was an action against the defendant, a broker, for negligently delivering a certain quantity of oil of the plaintiffs without payment; the declaration stating that the same had been consigned to the defendant to be delivered to one *Peacock* upon payment, and that the defendant delivered it to *J. Hare and Co.*, without such payment. Upon the trial before me at *Guildhall* at the sittings after *Hilary* term 1837, *Thomas Easton* was called as a witness for the plaintiffs; and the object of so calling him was to prove that the delivery of the oil had been directed by himself under the orders of the defendant. The witness described himself as being a lighterman and ledgerman; that he had been employed

1839.

BOORMAN
against
BROWN.

(a) 8 Taunt. 454.

by

1839.

BOORMAN
against
BROWN.

by the plaintiffs about five years; and that the nature of his employment was to attend the brokers for their orders and to hand them over to the captains. It subsequently appeared that the witness earned 50*l.* or 60*l.* a year from the plaintiffs by this employment. To the competency of this witness objection was made upon the ground that he was directly interested in the event of the suit, and in fixing the liability upon the defendant. And the question seems to be reduced to this single point, whether the witness, by the share which he came to avow himself to have had in the transaction, *did* render himself liable to the plaintiffs; because, *if* he did, it seems impossible to distinguish (favourably for the plaintiffs at least) the present from those cases on which reliance was chiefly placed in support of the objection, and to which we shall presently advert.

Now, certainly, the oil whilst it remained on board the *Barham*, by which vessel it was consigned (according to the plaintiffs' case) to the defendant's care, was in a state of security. The mischief and loss arose from its being transhipped to another vessel which conveyed it away to *Bristol*, by which the damage was alleged to have been sustained. And, if that act had been done by the witness without any authority from the plaintiffs, and injury was thereby incurred, he (the witness) surely would have been responsible. Such liability, therefore, having attached upon the witness according to the earlier part of his testimony, it comes next to be considered, whether his position can be distinguished from that of a servant, called for the plaintiff his master in an action brought by the latter for some alleged negligence in the defendant, whereby the plaintiff's carriage or vessel (whatever the case may be) sustained damage.

And

And we cannot see how the interest of this witness can be *less* to shift his own *primâ facie* liability upon the defendant, by proving orders given by the latter to him to do the thing, than that of the servant (in the cases alluded to) to clear himself of all responsibility to his master, by shewing his own conduct in the transaction to have been wholly blameless, and the fault or negligence to have been wholly on the side of the defendant or those representing him when the mischief took place. The responsibility in the present case seems to be quite as probable and imminent as in those; and in those cases we consider the rule now to be too well settled to admit of doubt or question.

Thus in the case of *Miller v. Falconer* (a), which was an action against the defendant for negligently running against the plaintiff's cart with a dray, the servant of the latter who was driving the cart was held to be incompetent by Lord *Ellenborough* without a release. The like is reported by *Gibbs* C. J., in the case of *Morish v. Foote* (b), to have been ruled by Lord *Kenyon* as to a ship owner; where, in an action on a policy on goods on board that ship, he was called to prove her seaworthy, the defence being that she was not. And in the case just mentioned, of *Morish v. Foote* (c), a case precisely the same in its circumstances again occurred; and the Court of Common Pleas upon full argument held the plaintiff's servant incompetent without a release.

It has been urged that there is a marked distinction in actions of this description between the case of a plaintiff and a defendant: that in the latter instance the ser-

(a) 1 *Camp.* 251.

(b) 8 *Taunt.* 457. S. C. (as *Rotherde v. Elton*), *Peake's N. P. C.* 117. 3d ed.

(c) 8 *Taunt.* 454.

1839.

BOORMAN
against
BROWN.

1839.

BOORMAN
against
BROWN.

vant is necessarily called to *rebut* the charge of negligence, which is to render him liable to his employer; for that, unless *some* case had been made against the defendant, his (the servant's) testimony would not be required: whereas in the former it stands at least indifferent, whether any suggestion of negligence will be made against the servant or not; and indeed in the *then* state of things, when the objection is made, the presumption is rather the other way. Whether, if this had been res integra, this distinction might have been considered of any importance, it is unnecessary now to inquire, for it was pressed upon the notice of the Court of Common Pleas in the case (already referred to) of *Morish v. Foote* (a), without affecting the conclusion at which they arrived.

Being of opinion, therefore, that the law is settled by those cases, and that the objection of interest in the present instance is *at least* as strong (and we need not go further), we think the witness was incompetent, and that there must be a new trial.

Rule absolute.

(a) 8 Taunt. 454.

1839.

BURROUGHS *against* HODGSON.Friday,
January 11th.

DEBT. The declaration claimed 6*l.* for goods sold and delivered, and 6*l.* as due on an account stated: damages 6*l.* Pleas. 1 (a). The defendant, "as to the several monies in which the defendant is in the declaration mentioned to have been indebted to the plaintiff, except as to 1*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.* parcel of the said monies, says that he never was indebted, except as to the said sum of 1*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*, in manner and form" &c.; and of this &c. (conclusion to the country). 2. And, as to the said 1*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*, parcel as aforesaid, the defendant &c. (actionem non), "because he says that the 10th day of *October* next after the making and passing a certain act of parliament made" &c. (stat. 6 & 7 *W.* 4. c. cxxxvii., local and personal, public), "entitled, 'An act to repeal two acts of the reign of King *George* II. for the recovery of small debts within the city and liberty of *Westminster*, and for granting more effectual powers for that purpose' (b), elapsed

Where defendant in an action of debt pleads,
1. As to all but a parcel of the sum claimed, that he never was indebted:
2. As to such parcel, that defendant was indebted in no more, and that the same was recoverable in a court of requests having exclusive jurisdiction,
Scilicet, that such second plea may commence as an answer to part only of the declaration, and need not be pleaded to the whole?

Where such court of requests has exclusive ju-

isdiction of debts up to a certain amount, the plea must state in terms that defendant was not indebted beyond that amount. It is not sufficient to allege that he was not indebted in beyond a smaller sum, which is specified:

For a plea must be shaped so that the averments, if traversed, will be material and conclusive whether found for plaintiff or defendant; and this averment would not be so, if found for the plaintiff.

(a) The second plea only was set out in the paper books; but the Court desired to see the first also, before giving judgment: and *Patteson* J. observed that, where a plea demurred to contained a reference to something partly answered in another plea, the rule *Hil.* 8 & 9 *G.* 4. (7 *B.* & *C.* 642.) did not prevent the insertion of such other plea in the demurrer-book.

(b) Sect. 1 repeals the former acts from and after 10th *October* 1836.

Sect. 37 empowers the commissioners under this act to decide all disputes and differences between party and party for any sum not exceeding

1839.

BURROUGHS
against
HODGSON.

elapsed before the commencement of this suit: and the defendant further says that, at the time of the commencement of this suit, he the defendant was not indebted to the plaintiff to a greater amount than the said sum of 1*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*" (Then followed proper averments to bring the debt within the jurisdiction of the *Westminster* Court of Requests mentioned in the act.) "And the defendant further says that, before and at the time of the commencement of this suit, the said debt of 1*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*, being a debt not exceeding 40*s.*, was recoverable by the plaintiff against and from the defendant in the said Court of Requests by virtue of the first mentioned act; and that the plaintiff brought this action as to the said sum of 1*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.* in this honourable Court contrary to the form of the same act." Verification, and prayer of judgment if plaintiff ought to have or maintain his action as to the 1*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*

Replication joining issue on the first plea. Demurrer to the second plea, assigning causes which will sufficiently appear by the argument. The demurrer was argued in last *Michaelmas* term (a).

W. H. Watson for the plaintiff. First: the plea is demurrable, because it begins as an answer to part of the declaration, but in fact answers the whole: *Gray*

5*l.*, in all actions or causes of debt except as after (in sect. 38) mentioned.

Sect. 86 enacts that no action for any debt not exceeding 40*s.*, and recoverable by this act in the said court of requests, shall be brought against any person residing within the jurisdiction, in any other court; but the clause preserves the jurisdiction of his Majesty's courts of record at *Westminster* or other courts in cases where the debt shall exceed 40*s.*

(a) November 13th. Before Lord Denman C. J., Patteson, Williams, and Coleridge Js.

v. *Pindar*

v. Pindar (a). Secondly. The plea ought to have been (to the whole declaration) that the debt did not exceed 40s. The precedents are so. Here the allegation is, as to 1*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*, that the defendant was not indebted to the plaintiff in a greater amount than that sum: to reply that he was, would have been tendering an immaterial issue; and it was not incumbent on the plaintiff to reply that the debt exceeded 40s., when the defendant had not specifically alleged the contrary.

1839.

BURNBOURN
against
HOBSON.

E. V. Williams, contra. There are two pleas, which, together, constitute one entire answer to the declaration. The defence could not have been pleaded otherwise. Had the defendant professed to answer the declaration in a single plea, he must have concluded with a verification, and yet in the body of the plea he must have denied a positive averment in the declaration, namely, that the debt was of a greater amount than 1*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.* He could not pass over that averment and plead that a debt alleged to be 6*l.* was only 1*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.* In *Gardner v. Jessop (b)* pleas like the present were pleaded, and not objected to. In *Gray v. Pindar (a)*, which was an action of assumpsit on a note payable by instalments, the defendant pleaded, as to the several causes of action in the declaration mentioned except as to one instalment, that the *said several causes of action in the said declaration mentioned* did not, nor did any of them, accrue within six years &c.; and the plea was demurred to as inconsistent, because it admitted one instalment to be due, and yet professed to bar the plaintiff as to all the causes

(a) 2 B. & P. 427. See notes (3) and (g) to *Earl of Manchester v. Vale*, 1 Wms. Saund. 28.

(b) 2 Wils. 42.

1899.

BURROUGHS
against
HONGSON.

of action stated in the declaration. That plea, no doubt, was erroneous, because the action lay for each separate instalment; but here the pleading is different. The defendant first states, as his defence in substance is, that he owed no more than 1*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*; and he then, as to that sum, pleads the Court of Requests' act. If the second plea not only gives an answer as to the 1*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.* but would also bar the whole action, that is no vice in the pleading. The case is analogous to that in which a defendant pleaded that, since the cause of action accrued, the plaintiff took a husband, and he released to the defendant (a): there the coverture would have been a complete answer, but the plea was held not to be double. The plaintiff here might have taken a material issue by averring that the debt exceeded 40*s.* A defendant is not obliged to plead so that issue may be taken by following the very words of the plea. Denying that the defendant owed more than 1*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*, is denying, *a fortiori*, that the debt exceeded 40*s.*

W. H. Watson in reply. In *Gardner v. Jessop* (b) there was a plea of non assumpsit except as to 1*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*; and, as to that sum, the defendant, in a second plea, pleaded the *Middlesex* County Court act. Here the second plea professes to give an answer as to part only of the debt, but proceeds to aver that the defendant was not indebted in more than 1*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*, and then alleges the statute.

Cur. adv. vult.

Lord DENMAN C. J. now delivered the judgment of the Court.

(a) *Dame Audley's Case*, *Moore*, 25.

(b) 2 *Wils.* 42.

This

This was an action of debt for goods sold and delivered. The defendant pleaded as to all but 1*l*. 13*s*. 8*d*. that he never was indebted; and, as to that sum, stat. 7 *W. 4. c. cxxxvii.*, commonly called the *Westminster Court of Requests Act*. This part of the plea contained, amongst other averments, the following: "And the defendant further says that, at the time of the commencement of this suit, he the defendant was not indebted to the plaintiff to a greater amount than the said sum of 1*l*. 13*s*. 8*d*." The defendant demurred; and upon the argument two grounds of demurrer were insisted on. First, That the plea begins as an answer to part, but is in truth an answer to the whole of the declaration. Secondly, That no material issue can be taken on the averment above set forth, inasmuch as, though the defendant should be found indebted in a greater amount than 1*l*. 13*s*. 8*d*., yet if the amount were under forty shillings the case would be equally within the Court of Requests Act, and therefore the averment, in order to be traversable, ought to have been "that the defendant was not indebted to the amount of forty shillings."

With respect to the first objection, it appears, upon an examination of the precedents, that it has been usual to plead such a plea to the whole declaration. The form usually adopted is in truth a denial of part, and a confession and avoidance of the residue of the declaration, yet not severing the parts in the introduction of the plea. On the present record, the parts are severed in the introduction to the plea; for the answer of "never indebted" to part, and of the Court of Requests Act to the residue, together, form but one plea to the whole declaration; and, in this respect, the plea is more in

1839.

Buzacott
against
Hosson.

1839.

BURROUGHS
against
HOBSON.

conformity with the ordinary rules of pleading than that which is usually adopted. There is nothing inconsistent in the statement in the introduction, that the 1*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.* is parcel of "the several monies in which the defendant is in the declaration *mentioned* to have been indebted to the plaintiff," with a denial that he was in truth indebted in any further sum; and the peculiar nature of the defence given by the Court of Requests Act makes it almost impossible to shape that defence according to the strict rules of pleading.

But we are not obliged to determine this point; for upon the second objection we are of opinion that judgment must be given for the plaintiff. If any averment at all as to the amount of the debt be necessary, the form commonly used is clearly the correct and proper one; namely, that the defendant was not indebted to the plaintiff "in any sums of money amounting to forty shillings," or "to the amount of forty shillings." On such an averment a material issue might be taken; and, though it is true that, if the present averment be traversed and found for the defendant, it would be material and conclusive, yet if found for the plaintiff it would be otherwise. The plaintiff, however, is entitled to have the plea of the defendant so framed as that the averments in it, if traversed, will be material and conclusive whichever way they be found; and their not being so framed is a good ground of demurrer. If, indeed, the averment was immaterial and might be struck out altogether, the plaintiff would have no ground to complain. But it is clear that the defendant must shew in some way upon the face of his plea that the cause of action is under forty shillings; otherwise the jurisdiction of this Court is not taken away by the Court of Requests Act.

The

The averment, therefore, cannot be said to be immaterial, and cannot be struck out. In the case of *Gardner v. Jessop* (a) the plea contained no such averment, and was in other respects similar to the present plea; but that case turned upon the replication, which raised an entirely different point; and the form of the plea was not discussed.

Judgment for the plaintiff.

(a) 2 Wils. 42.

1839.

BURROUGHS
against
HODGSON.

WOLLEN against SMITH.

Saturday,
January 12th.

E. JAMES had obtained a rule in *Michaelmas* term, 1837, calling upon the plaintiff to shew cause why the summons taken out in this cause on 1st *April*, 1838, should not be discharged, and why the defendant should not be at liberty forthwith to sign judgment for want of a replication.

In the last term (8th *November* 1838, (a)) *Humfrey* shewed cause, and *E. James* was heard in support of the rule. The circumstances of the case, and the arguments and authorities adduced, will fully appear from the judgment.

Cur. adv. vult.

Lord DENMAN C. J., now delivered the judgment of the Court.

This was an action by the indorsee against the acceptor of a bill of exchange. The defendant became

Where a defendant pleads *puis darrein continuance*, the plaintiff may always discontinue without payment of costs.

Therefore, where defendant (after plea) pleaded his bankruptcy and certificate *puis darrein continuance*, and plaintiff thereupon took out a summons for leave to discontinue without costs, it was held that he was entitled so to do, and that defendant could not be allowed to sign judgment of *non pros* for want of a declaration.

Stat. 6 G. 4. c. 16. s. 59. is not applicable where a certificate in bankruptcy is pleaded *puis darrein continuance*.

(a) Before Lord Denman C. J., Patterson, Williams, and Coleridge Js.

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bankrupt;

1839.

 WOLLEN
 against
 SMITH.

bankrupt; and a fiat issued against him on the 6th *July*, 1836. He was arrested in this action in the month of *November* in the same year. The plaintiff declared in *February* 1837; and the defendant pleaded, in the same month, that he did not accept. After pleading, he obtained his certificate; and, on the 27th *March*, pleaded it *puis darrein continuance*. He then ruled the plaintiff to reply, who took out a summons for leave to discontinue without costs. The learned Judge, before whom it was heard, referred the parties to the Court; and, accordingly, the defendant obtained a rule nisi to discharge the summons, and to be at liberty to sign judgment of *non pros* for want of a replication: which was argued in last *Michaelmas* term.

On the part of the defendant, the case was said to be similar to those of *Thompson v. Percival* (a) and *Augarde v. Thompson* (b), in which it was held that a plaintiff cannot avail himself of sect. 59 of stat. 6 G. 4. c. 16., so as to discontinue without costs, unless he has proved under the fiat, or at least procured a claim to be entered. The case of *Harris v. James* (c) was also referred to; in which a defendant, who obtained his certificate after declaration, but before plea, was held to be entitled to plead it in bar, and to have the costs of the action, as he would on any other successful plea in bar.

On the part of the plaintiff it was urged that this case differs entirely from those cited; inasmuch as it arises upon a plea *puis darrein continuance*, and is wholly independent of sect. 59 of stat. 6 G. 4. c. 16.: that every plea *puis darrein continuance* confesses that the action is rightly brought and maintained up to the time of that

(a) 5 B. & Ad. 925, 935.

(b) 2 M. & W. 617.

(c) 9 East, 82.

plea;

plea; for the form of the plea is, that the plaintiff ought not *further* to maintain his action: that the plaintiff is in no case compellable to go on with his action after such a plea, but may admit the truth of the defence which has arisen, and abandon his action without being liable to costs. In support of this position, the case of *Baker v. Morrey* (a) was cited; in which the Court of Common Pleas stayed the proceedings on a judgment of *non pros* signed under similar circumstances to the present, without costs. *Lyttleton v. Cross* (b) was also referred to for the same general doctrine: and *Lindo v. Simpson* (c) might have been added.

We are of opinion that these cases fully support the plaintiff's argument: and, without at all impeaching the authority of *Thompson v. Percival* (d) and *Augarde v. Thompson* (e), in both which cases the motions were professedly grounded on sect. 59 of stat. 6 G. 4. c. 16., and the only question was, whether the requisites of that section had been complied with, we hold that, after pleading *puis darrein continuance*, the defendant cannot force the plaintiff on, but the latter is entitled to discontinue his action without costs.

The present rule must therefore be discharged, but without costs: and the plaintiff has liberty to discontinue without costs.

The same rule must be pronounced in the case of *Horncastle v. Smith*; and in the case of *Price v. Morgan*, in which the same point arose in a different form, the rule must be made absolute.

Ordered accordingly.

(a) 1 *Moore & Payne*, 138.

(c) 2 *Smith's Rep.* 659.

(e) 2 *M. & W.* 617.

(b) 4 *B. & C.* 117.

(d) 5 *B. & Ad.* 925, 935.

1839.

WOLLEN
against
SMITH.

1839.

PALMER *against* TEMPLE.

Where *A.* agrees to demise a house to *B.* for a term, in consideration of 300*l.* then paid "by way of deposit, and in part of 5500*l.*," the whole purchase money, possession to be delivered and accepted on a day named, and *B.* agrees to accept such demise, but, on the day, refuses to accept, and *A.* afterwards disposes of the house to a third party, *Quarre*, whether, in the absence of any provision that the deposit shall be forfeited, or of any clause in the agreement, except as above, shewing the intention of the parties in this respect, *B.* can recover the deposit from *A.*?

The intention may be collected from other parts of the agreement.

Thus, where there was a distinct clause providing that either party making default should forfeit 1000*l.*, it was held that the deposit was not to be forfeited, and might be recovered back on *A.*'s disposing of the house as above.

But that it could not be recovered back before *A.* disposed of the house.

Under the above circumstances, an action brought for the deposit after the day named in the agreement, but before *A.* had disposed of the house, having failed, was held no estoppel to an action brought after *A.* had disposed of the house. And it was held that the facts negatived a plea that the causes of the two actions were identical.

ASSUMPSIT for 300*l.* had and received, 300*l.*, in interest, and 300*l.* on an account stated.

Pleas. 1. Non assumpsit. Issue thereon.

2. That plaintiff ought not to be admitted to say that defendant was indebted to plaintiff in the said sum of 300*l.*, or any part thereof, for money received by defendant for the use of plaintiff, or that defendant promised to pay the last-mentioned sum or any part thereof to plaintiff, because he saith that, before the commencement of this suit, viz. 2d *July* 1835, &c.: The plea then stated an action brought in K. B. by plaintiff against defendant on promises; declaration therein, 12th *November* 1835, for that defendant on 1st *October* 1835 was indebted to plaintiff in 1000*l.* for money had and received by defendant for the use of plaintiff: plea by defendant in the said former suit, that he did not promise &c.: issue: trial of the said issue on 15th *December* 1835, at *Guildhall, London*, before Lord *Denman* C. J., &c.; and finding by the jury that defendant did not promise in manner &c.; whereupon, afterwards and before the commencement of this suit, viz. 19th *February* 1836, it was considered, in and by the said Court, in the said

former

former action, that plaintiff should take nothing by his said writ, but that he should be in mercy &c., and that defendant should go thereof without day &c., as by the record &c.: which said judgment still remains in full force &c. Averment that the 300*l.*, in the first count of the declaration in this action above mentioned, was and is part and parcel of the said 1000*l.* mentioned in the declaration in the said former suit; and that the said supposed promise in the said first count mentioned and the supposed promise in the said declaration in the said former suit mentioned, as to the said 300*l.*, parcel of the 1000*l.* mentioned in the said last mentioned declaration, are one and the same &c.; and that defendant did not promise in respect of the sum of money in the said first count of the declaration in this action above mentioned, otherwise than as was alleged in the declaration in the said former action as to the said sum of 300*l.*, parcel &c.: and the said supposed cause of action in the first count of the declaration in this action mentioned, and the said supposed cause of action in respect whereof the plaintiff declared against the defendant in the said former action, as to the said 300*l.* parcel &c., are the same identical supposed cause of action, &c. Verification, and prayer of judgment if the plaintiff ought to be admitted &c. (as in the introduction). Replication. That, although true it is that plaintiff did implead &c., and that defendant did plead &c., and that such proceedings were had in the said action in manner and form as defendant hath above in his said last plea in that behalf alleged, and although true it is that it was considered &c. (stating the judgment in the former action, as in the plea), in manner and form &c.; for replication nevertheless &c., that the said de-

1839.

 PALMER
 against
 TEMPLE

1839.

 PALMER
 against
 TEMPLE.

fendant of his own wrong, and without the residue of the cause in the said last plea alleged, broke the promise in the said declaration mentioned, so far as the same relates to the said cause of action in the first count of the said declaration mentioned: conclusion to the country. Joinder.

On the trial before *Williams J.*, at the *Middlesex* sittings in *Easter* term 1837, it appeared that the defendant and plaintiff executed an instrument, entitled a memorandum of agreement, dated 15th *June* 1835, between the defendant of the one part and the plaintiff of the other, the material parts of which were as follows.

“First. — The said *Charles Temple*, in consideration of the sum of 300*l.* to him now paid by the said *William Palmer*, as the said *C. T.* doth hereby acknowledge, (*by way of deposit, and in part of the sum of 5,500*l.* the consideration agreed between the parties to be given by the said W. P. for purchase of the messuage or tenement hereinafter mentioned, and for the trade,*” &c.,) “and of the residue of such purchase money to be paid as hereinafter stipulated, agrees that he and all (if any) other necessary parties will, on or before the 24th day of *June* instant, demise unto the said *W. P.*, his executors, administrators, and assigns, or to such person as he shall appoint, all that messuage,” &c., “for the term of” &c. (specifying term and rent). “And the said *C. T.* agrees to deliver to the said *W. P.* the possession of the said messuage,” &c., “on or before the said 24th day of *June* instant” &c. (Then followed stipulations for allowances to be made, and for the sale by defendant to plaintiff, by valuation, of certain property on the premises, with some other provisoes, not material here). “Secondly. — For the considerations aforesaid, the said

W. P.

W. P. agrees to accept such lease without requiring evidence of the title of the said *C. T.* to grant the same, other than " &c., "and to pay the said *C. T.* the sum of 5200*l.*, residue of the purchase money agreed to be given by him for the said messuage or public house, and the trade, &c., thereof, as before mentioned, on the execution of the said lease and the delivery thereof to him, and of the said licences duly assigned, and the possession of the said public house and premises as aforesaid. And he further agrees " &c. (as to payment for fixtures &c.), "and in all other respects to fulfil this agreement on his part; and at the same time execute and deliver a counterpart of such lease to the said *C. T.* Thirdly," — (After a provision respecting the expence of completing the agreement,) "it is further agreed that, if either of the parties shall refuse or neglect to perform this agreement on his part, he shall pay unto the other of them, who shall be willing to complete the same, the sum of 1000*l.*, as or in the nature of liquidated damages, and to be sued for in any of his Majesty's courts of law of record accordingly." By a memorandum indorsed on the agreement the time for carrying it into effect was extended to the 29th of *June*.

On the day last mentioned the agents of the parties attended, and the valuation was gone into, but was not completed till ten o'clock at night. Possession was demanded on behalf of the plaintiff at a quarter before twelve: the defendant's agent offered to give possession of the bulk of the property; but the plaintiff's agent insisted upon having actual possession of the whole, including certain cottages in which the tenants were then sleeping. The defendant's agent complained of such
a demand

1839.

 PALMER
against
TEMPLE.

1839.

PALMER
against
TEMPLE.

a demand being made at that hour of the night; but, upon the plaintiff's agent insisting upon having possession before twelve o'clock, offered to go and give possession immediately. The plaintiff's agent, however, after a little delay, said that it was too late, it being past twelve o'clock.

On 2d *July* 1835, the plaintiff brought an action of assumpsit against the defendant for a breach of the agreement, and for money had and received. The defendant pleaded non assumpsit generally; and, to the count on an agreement, — First, that he was ready to perform, but the plaintiff was not; — Secondly, That the agreement was not performed, in consequence of the plaintiff refusing to complete unless the defendant would give possession of part of the premises, as to which plaintiff had discharged defendant from giving possession. Thirdly, That the completion of the agreement was prevented by the plaintiff not valuing the stock. Issues being joined on these pleas, the cause was tried before Lord *Denman* C. J., at *Guildhall*, on 15th *December* 1835, when the above facts were proved. It further appeared that, on 21st *July* 1835, the defendant had underlet the premises to a third party. No evidence was given shewing a loss by the defendant in consequence of any difference in the terms of the two bargains. The Lord Chief Justice, in leaving the issues to the jury, told them, as to the count for money had and received, that the action would lie for the deposit, if the defendant had broken the agreement, or if the contract had failed by mutual abandonment, but not if the plaintiff had broken it; but that the underletting on 21st *July* was not to be taken into consideration, the action having been commenced on the 2d; and his lordship
left

left it to the jury to say whether the defendant did his part in performing the contract (a). The jury found for the defendant, and, finally, a verdict was entered for him on all the issues, except so much of the issue on non assumpsit as related to the count on the agreement; and, as to so much, the verdict was entered for the plaintiff.

1839.

 PALMER
 against
 TEMPLE.

The plaintiff's counsel in the present action did not dispute the propriety of the finding of the jury in the first action; but contended that the plaintiff was now entitled to recover the deposit in consequence of the defendant having, by the underlease of *July 21st, 1835*, put it out of his own power to complete the agreement. Under the direction of the learned Judge, a verdict was found for the defendant on both issues, leave being reserved to move to enter a verdict for the plaintiff. In *Easter term 1837*, *Thesiger* obtained a rule accordingly. In *Michaelmas term last* (b),

Sir *J. Campbell*, Attorney-General, *Kelly*, and Sir *W. W. Follett*, shewed cause. The defendant is entitled to retain the verdict on each issue. The money was not had and received to the use of the plaintiff, because the failure to perform the contract, which alone could give the plaintiff a right to demand the deposit back,

(a) His Lordship stated that the main question was, by whose default the agreement had remained unperformed; he observed that it was not necessary to the performance that possession should be given by actually turning out all persons upon the premises; and, even assuming that such necessity in general existed, he left it to the jury whether, from the circumstances, an understanding between the parties might not be inferred, that this proceeding was to be dispensed with. A motion was made for a new trial in the ensuing term, on the ground of misdirection; but the Court, after taking time for consideration, refused the rule; *January 21st, 1836*.

(b) *November 19th and 20th. Before Lord Denman C. J., Patteson Williams, and Coleridge Js.*

1839.

PALMER
against
TEMPLE.

was occasioned by himself. *Spratt v. Jeffery* (a) shews that a party who agrees to purchase, and makes a deposit, cannot recover it back if the other party has been ready to perform his contract. That was the position of the parties here, at the time when the agreement was to have been performed, at which time the plaintiff renounced the contract. It is now said that the defendant has altered the legal position of the parties, by making it impossible for himself to perform the contract. But he can no longer be called on to do so: the deposit is absolutely forfeited. [*Patteson J.* Could the plaintiff, by any act of his, destroy the defendant's right to sue for breach of contract, or to claim a specific performance? And, if the defendant retained such a right, must he not also have been answerable still for the deposit?] The defendant has such a right; but it does not follow that he is to answer for the money, except that the deposit will go in reduction of damages. [*Patteson J.* Suppose the damages were less than the deposit?] Then the verdict would be for nominal damages only; and the plaintiff would have occasioned the loss by his own fault. On any other view, the result would be that the defendant was perpetually bound to retain the property unsold. The deposit is made by way of indemnifying the seller against the breach of the agreement, with the understanding that, if the agreement be carried into effect, the money shall go in part payment, and, if not, it shall be retained as indemnity. [*Coleridge J.* There is generally a clause providing that the deposit shall be forfeited in case the party contracting to purchase makes default: you say that such a clause is al-

(a) 10 B. & C. 249.

together superfluous (a)]. For legal purposes, it seems to be so; but possibly the equitable rights of the parties may be affected by it. [Lord *Denman* C. J. I think we must take it that there was such a clause in *Spratt v. Jeffery* (b)]. The action for money had and received can be founded only on breach of contract, producing a failure of consideration. But it is not pretended that the defendant broke the contract: that was the act of the plaintiff: the plaintiff could neither sue for breach of contract, nor demand a specific performance. Such a right was extinct after his own renunciation of the contract; and nothing that has happened since can revive it: nothing has been since done with reference to the contract. Suppose a party hiring a ship, which is to sail at a certain time, pays a deposit: if the hirer is not ready at the time, and the ship sails away, can he recover the deposit? So, if goods bought are to be delivered on a day named, and the purchaser pays the deposit, but refuses to accept on the day; can he

1839.

 PALMER
against
TEMPLE.

(a) See *Cod. Just.* lib. 4. tit. xxi. 17. "Illud etiam adjicientes, ut in posterum si quas arræ super faciendâ emptione cujuscunque rei datæ sunt, sive in scriptis, sive sine scriptis: licet non sit specialiter adjectum quid super iisdem arris non procedente contractu fieri oporteat, tamen et qui vendere pollicitus est, venditionem recusans in duplum eas reddere cogatur, et qui emere pactus est, ab emptione recedens, datis a se arris cadat, repetitione earum denegandâ." See *Pothier, Traité du Contrat de Vente*, part vi. ch. 1. art. 3. § 1. (498.) "Cette convention étant de la nature du contrat d'arrhes, il n'est pas nécessaire qu'elle soit expresse." (*Œuvres*, tom. i. p. 648. 2d. ed.): These remarks apply to a deposit made before the bargain is complete, in which case either party may recede (as in *Savile v. Savile*, 1 P. W. 745.), but will forfeit as above. Where the deposit is made after the sale is complete, the parties cannot recede, even upon the above terms of forfeiture, unless this has been expressly provided for; though it seems that a different view has sometimes been taken, by civilians, of the effect of the deposit in this case. See the same article in *Pothier*, § 2. (507.).

(b) 10 B. & C. 249.

recover

1839.

 PALMER
 against
 TEMPLE.

recover the deposit? Or has he any claim whatever on the goods, whether retained in the vendor's warehouse, or sold to a third party? From the concluding part of the judgment in *Acebal v. Levy* (a) it appears that the present defendant, by reselling the property, did not preclude himself from suing the plaintiff for the breach of his contract. Suppose a master hire a servant for a time, and pay a sum down, and then refuse to receive him: clearly the hirer cannot recover back the deposit. But can it be contended that, if the servant, after the refusal, hire himself to a third person, he thereby gives the master a new right of action, and that, to avoid so doing, he must remain out of service for the whole time? No trace of such a principle appears in the books; and it is inconsistent with the intention of the parties giving and receiving a deposit. For the purpose of binding the bargain a written agreement, or a small earnest, would suffice. In *Clark v. Upton* (b) a party agreeing for a purchase of land paid a deposit; the seller was unable to make a title on the stipulated day: and, afterwards, upon the purchaser entering into arrangements to compromise with his creditors, the seller was requested to cancel the contract and return the deposit; he refused to do either, but engaged not to enforce the contract: and it was held that he could not be sued for the deposit, on the ground that he had precluded himself from enforcing the contract. *Horford v. Wilson* (c), *Gray v. Gutteridge* (d), and *Duncan v. Cafe* (e), illustrate the general principle that the party failing loses the deposit. [*Patteson J.* If a horse be warranted, and

(a) 10 Bing. 384, 5.

(c) 1 Taun. 12.

(e) 2 Mee. & W. 244.

(b) 3 Man. & R. 89.

(d) 1 Man. & R. 614.

the price paid for him, and he turn out unsound, can the seller, if he take the horse back, retain the purchase-money?] There the contract is rescinded by mutual consent: it is not an instance of a contract simply broken by failure on one side (*a*). [Lord Denman C. J. Time seems to be of the essence of the contract.] That is so at law; 1 *Sugden's Vend. and Purch.* 404. (ed. 10.); and it shews conclusively that the contract was broken by the plaintiff. On the second issue, also, it is clear that the original action was brought for the very deposit now in question. The defence which existed then exists now. [*Patteson J.* As things then stood, there was no right to recover, because the defendant was still in a condition to insist upon the contract. That is now altered.] The parties stand as before, unless there be a new right of action created by the defendant having underlet.

Thessiger and *Ogle*, contra. First, as to the issue on non assumpsit. The 300*l.* was, properly, a deposit only by way of part payment of purchase-money. It was not a security for the performance of the plaintiff's agreement. That appears, both by the absence of a clause of forfeiture, and by the clause respecting the 1000*l.* to be paid by either party refusing to perform (which, according to *Kemble v. Farren* (*b*), cannot be taken as liquidated damages); for, as provision is expressly made for the penalty to be paid upon the default of either party, the deposit cannot be understood to have been made with that intention. It does not appear that the plain-

(*a*) See *Street v. Blay*, 2 B. & Ad. 456.; *Gompertz v. Denton*, 1 Cr. & M. 207.; S. C. 3 Tyrwh. 232.; *Pateshall v. Tranter*, 3 A. & E. 103.

(*b*) 6 Bing. 141.

1839.

 PALMER
against
TEMPLE.

1839.

PALMER
against
TEMPLE.

tiff broke the agreement; but only that the defendant, up to the time of his underletting, had not broken it. Had the defendant filed a bill for a specific performance, the 300*l.* would have been treated as part payment; and it would have gone in reduction of damages had he brought an action for the non-performance of the contract. It was not therefore absolutely forfeited. It is said that it would be unreasonable to require a seller to hold the property always in his hands: but he can always part with it on paying back the deposit. *Spratt v. Jeffery* (a) is inapplicable. It shews that, at the time when the first action was brought, and before the defendant had underlet, the plaintiff could not recover his deposit: but it does not shew that the defendant may retain it when he has disabled himself from performing the agreement. If goods be sold, to be delivered and accepted on a certain day, and the buyer refuse to accept, he cannot recover his deposit: but, if the seller afterwards disposes of them, he can no longer retain the sum paid, except to cover any loss on the sale. As to the case put of hiring a servant, the offer of the servant to serve, and the refusal by the master, is tantamount to an actual service; for the servant has a right to sue for the wages of the whole quarter (b). [Lord Denman C. J. If he hire himself to another, can the first master call upon him to serve according to the original bargain?] He cannot: because he has set the servant at liberty by refusing to take him. [Lord Denman C. J. Then how can the plaintiff here call for the performance of the defendant's contract?] The case put of the hiring of a ship does not apply:

(a) 10 B. & C. 249.

(b) *Smith v. Hayward*, 7 A. & E. 544. seems contrâ.

because,

because, after the ship sails on the appointed day, the parties can no longer be replaced in the same position. Secondly, if the action for money had and received lie at all, it clearly is upon a right which has arisen since the first trial; so that the defendant will not be entitled to a verdict on the second issue more than on the first. [On this point, they were stopped by the Court.]

Cur. adv. vult.

1839.

—
PALMER
against
TEMPLE.

Lord DENMAN C. J., in this term (*January 14th*), delivered the judgment of the Court.

This motion for a rule to enter a verdict for the plaintiff, according to leave reserved by my brother *Williams* at *Nisi Prius*, led to a discussion of the most general nature, that is, whether one contracting for the purchase of landed property, who refuses to complete his contract, may recover the deposit from the vendor, on his afterwards selling the property to another. The plaintiff contended that, though the defendant might have sued for a specific performance, or for damages sustained for breach of the contract, he lost the right to detain the money deposited, by disabling himself from fulfilling his own part of the bargain. The defendant's argument was, that the money was originally received by him to his own use, not the plaintiff's, and was meant to be forfeited if the plaintiff should fly from his contract; money so deposited, though not to be called earnest in strictness of speech, being, in fact, for this purpose, in the nature of earnest; that the vendor could not be expected to keep his property always unsold, and might possibly be a loser to a greater extent than the amount of the deposit.

VOL. IX.

N n

No

1839.

 PALMER
 against
 TEMPLE.

No authority bearing directly on the question was quoted, either from report or text-book. But Sir *E. Sugden*'s work on *The Law of Vendors and Purchasers* refers (a) to a case of *Savile v. Savile* (b), where Lord *Macclesfield* held, in conformity to a then recent decision, that a purchaser had a right to abandon his contract on forfeiting his deposit, and no more. It was not questioned that the deposit must be forfeited. Probably, however, a clause to that effect may have formed a part of the contract; in which case the decision would prove nothing as to the nature of a deposit, taken by itself. This is so reasonable and so prevailing a practice, that it is highly probable the general question may never come to be decided; for we do not feel it open to us on the present occasion.

The ground on which we rest this opinion is, that, in absence of any specific provision, the question, whether the deposit is forfeited, depends on the intent of the parties to be collected from the whole instrument: but, as this imposes on either party that should make default a penalty of 1000*l.*, the intent of the parties is clear, that there should be no other remedy.

This fact was mentioned when the rule nisi was obtained by Mr. *Thesiger* for the plaintiff, in the course of the argument. The consequence appears to be that this vendor may sue for the penalty, and recover such damages as a jury may award: but he cannot retain the deposit; for that must be considered, not as an earnest to be forfeited, but as part payment. But the very idea of payment falls to the ground when both have treated

(a) Vol. i. p. 128. (10th ed.)

(b) 1 P. W. 745.

the bargain as at an end; and from that moment the vendor holds the money advanced to the use of the purchaser.

There was a second plea of judgment recovered. And, in fact, the plaintiff had sued the defendant for this very deposit, and the verdict had passed against him. But the evidence shewed the ground of that verdict to be that the action was prematurely brought, viz. before the contract was rescinded, and before the defendant had disabled himself from completing it. The former judgment forms no obstacle to the recovery, now that that event has taken place. It is like an action brought for the price of goods before the credit had expired, which would not prevent a recovery for the same goods after that period.

The rule, therefore, for setting aside the verdict for the defendant, and entering one for the plaintiff, with 300*l.* damages, must be made absolute. But, as the defendant may have his cross action against the plaintiff on the clause in the agreement before cited, the reasonable course would be to refer to arbitration the question whether the damages should be reduced, and to what amount, or whether the defendant is entitled to recover more than 300*l.* for breach of his contract, giving the arbitrator power to award accordingly. But, at any rate, this verdict must finally stand for some damages, as the deposit was held by the defendant for the plaintiff's use, as soon as the fulfilment of the contract became impossible by the defendant's act.

Rule absolute.

1839.

PALMER
against
TEMPLE.

1839.

Saturday,
January 12th.

In the Matter of Arbitration between BROWN
and the CROYDON Canal Company.

A canal company agreed with *B.* for the use of an engine constructed by him, during a term of years, they paying a stipulated annual sum. In the course of the term, disputes arising, the parties put an end to the agreement, and referred all matters in difference between them to arbitration. On the reference, *B.* claimed, among other things, compensation for future loss, in respect of the part of the term unexpired. The company stated a set-off. The arbitrators, by their award, reciting the submission to arbitration, and that they had heard and considered all the evidence of each party, and

investigated all the accounts and vouchers touching the matters in difference, adjudicated (not saying that they did so of and concerning the matters referred) that there was due from the company to *B.* 515*l.*, which they directed the company to pay him.

On motion to set aside the award, on the grounds, 1. That it was not final, inasmuch as no decision appeared touching the future damage, 2. That it was uncertain, 3. That it left a doubt whether or not the set-off had been considered,

Held, that the award was sufficient.

BY agreement, *March* 16th, 1830, between *Samuel Brown*, engineer, and the company of proprietors of the *Croydon* canal, *Brown* agreed that he would sell to the company, and erect for them, a patent gas vacuum engine, by *May* 21st then next, and would work the engine and keep it in repair for fourteen years next following the said 21st *May*, and find fuel, gas, &c., and would by this means supply constantly the upper level of the canal with water: and the company agreed that they would pay *Brown* for the purchase and erection of the engine 300*l.*, and re-imburse him the expense (not exceeding 120*l.*) of erecting an engine-house, the payments to be made by three equal annual instalments (with interest) from *May* 21st; and that they would pay him, for working the engine for fourteen years, and finding fuel &c., 100*l.* a year. The agreement also contained provisions in favour of the company, in case of certain specified defaults by *Brown*: and there was a stipulation that, if *Brown* should at any time wish to exhibit the engine and its mode of working to any person, he should be at liberty to do so, provided the regular supply of water to the canal were not interrupted.

Disputes

Disputes having arisen between *Brown* and the company as to certain sums claimed by him under the agreement, and compensation demanded by him in consequence of the agreement being put an end to by the company, and as to an alleged set-off. on their part, the company and *Brown* executed arbitration bonds, *May* 27th, 1837, whereby, after reciting that certain disputes and differences had arisen between them, and they had agreed to refer the said disputes and differences, and all actions, causes of action, suits, controversies, trespasses, damages and demands which at any time theretofore had been had, made, moved, &c., or depending between them, to certain arbitrators (engineers), the condition of each bond respectively was declared to be that the obligor should stand to and obey the award of the arbitrators.

1839.

In the Matter of
BROWN and
The
CROYDON Canal
Company.

On the arbitration, *Brown* made the following claims.

Two instalments, with interest	-	-	-	£ 350
Five years' payment for working the engine	-			500
Eight years' payment for ditto for the residue unexpired of the term of fourteen years	-			800
Loss of profit from sale of coke, tar, &c., which might have been made during the last men- tioned period	-	-	-	680
Loss of opportunity of exhibiting the engine and trying experiments with it	-	-	-	500
Use of ground adjoining the engine for the re- sidue of the term	-	-	-	80
Buildings erected, and articles left in the engine				94
				<hr/> £ 3004 <hr/>

The arbitrators, by their award, after reciting the submission bonds, adjudicated as follows. We the

N n 3

arbitrators

1839. arbitrators &c., "having taken upon ourselves the bur-
 then of the said arbitration and umpirage (a), and
 In the Matter of **Brown and** having fully heard and maturely considered all the evi-
 The **Croydon Canal** dence produced by and on behalf of each of the said
 Company. **Company.** parties in difference, and having carefully investigated
 and examined all the accounts and vouchers produced
 before us touching the matters in difference, and to us
 referred in manner aforesaid, do hereby make and
 publish our award and umpirage in writing in manner
 following. We do find and award that there is justly due
 and owing from the said company of proprietors of the
Croydon canal to the said *Samuel Brown* the sum of
 515*l.* 16*s.* 7*d.*; and we do order and award the said
 company of proprietors of the *Croydon* canal to pay the
 said sum of 515*l.* 16*s.* 7*d.* to the said *Samuel Brown* ;
 and we do hereby further order and award that the
 costs of the reference and award be borne by the
 company."

Sir *W. W. Follett*, in *Michaelmas* term, 1837, moved,
 on behalf of the company, for a rule to shew cause why
 the award should not be set aside, on the grounds :
 1. That it is not final, inasmuch as it determines only
 as to the amount of debt due from the company to
Samuel Brown at the time of making the award, and
 omits to decide on any of the other matters in difference
 between the parties. 2. That the award is void for un-
 certainty. 3. That the award leaves it in doubt whether
 the arbitrators, in finding the sum due to *Brown*, have
 taken into account the sums which the company claimed

(a) An umpire was to be appointed in case of disagreement, and the
 award was executed by such umpire (an engineer) together with the
 arbitrators.

to set off against *Brown's* demand, and whether the sum of 515*l.* 16*s.* 7*d.* so und due to him is the balance due to him after deducting such sums, or is still subject to such deductions. 4. That the award does not determine all the matters in difference. A rule nisi was granted.

1839.

In the Matter of
Brown and
The
Canal Company.

By the affidavits for and against the rule, it appeared that each of the items in *Brown's* claim was matter of discussion before the arbitrators; that witnesses were called on both sides; and that, on the arbitration, the company disputed their liability to pay *Brown* more than 200*l.*, against which they claimed to set off two items of 38*l.* and 30*l.*: that, throughout the arbitration, the avowed object of both parties was to ascertain and reduce the final balance to be paid by the company: that no other claim, demand, or deduction than those above mentioned was put in or referred to; that every matter brought under the notice of the arbitrators was discussed before them and noted down by them; and that all demands, deductions, and allowances between the parties were left to them to decide.

Kelly and *Petersdorff* now shewed cause. Though the award does not shew the specific items of claim awarded upon, it is not uncertain. The test of an award being final or certain is, whether it would operate as a bar to future proceedings between the parties as to the same matters. This award would be such a bar if it were pleaded, and the subject-matter identified with that of the suit. All the matters in dispute were before the arbitrators: they award that so much is due; and it must be taken that such award was made with a view to the necessary deductions. *Gray v. Gwennap (a)* and *Platt*

(a) 1 B. & Ald. 106.

1839.

In the Matter of
BROWN and
The
CROYDON Canal
Company.

v. Hall (a) shew that the adjudication as here made is sufficient. This is an award of unprofessional arbitrators. [Lord Denman C. J. That distinction has been long done away with.] The circumstance may be regarded in construing expressions.

Sir *W. W. Follett* and *Fish*, contra. The award is not stated to be of and concerning the matters in difference; but that objection is not now insisted upon. It appears here that several matters in dispute were before the arbitrators, and that all were not adjudicated upon. The statement that the company owe *Brown* 515*l.* 16*s.* 7*d.* is consistent with the supposition that that, as a liquidated sum, was due under the agreement at the time of making the award, but that the contingent damages on the termination of the agreement are not provided for. [*Littledale J.* An arrangement was made for terminating the business carried on by means of the engine. The loss to *Brown* was referred to arbitrators, who found a certain sum due. The contingent damages were referred as well as the rest. It was not necessary that all the items of compensation should be stated in the award.] Here nothing is stated to shew that the prospective claims were taken into consideration. The award presents the same uncertainty which was held to be fatal in the case *In the Matter of Rider and Fisher* (b). It might have been said there, as justly as in the present case, that the award comprehended all the matters referred. An award like this would be no answer to an action for demands under the agreement, not existing at the time of the adjudication, but accruing afterwards. [Lord Denman C. J. said that there was weight in this objection, and proposed that it

(a) 2 *M. & W.* 391.

(b) 3 *New Ca.* 874.

should

should be referred to the arbitrators to state what their intention was as to such demands, but this was not accorded to.] In an action where there is a set-off, it is not sufficient to award generally that a sum is due to the plaintiff; but the set-off must be adjudicated upon (a). [Littledale J. Many awards on orders of nisi prius would have been set aside by such a rule.] The arbitrators here do not find that, upon the whole of the matters alleged on each side, so much is due from the company; but merely that, "having fully heard and maturely considered all the evidence" produced by each party touching the matters in difference, they "award that there is justly due" from the company to *Brown* such a sum. Where awards in general terms, upon several matters in difference, have been upheld, it has sufficiently appeared that the adjudication applied to all the matters; *Dicas v. Jay* (b) and *Day v. Bonnin* (c) exemplify the rule on this subject. In *Gyde v. Boucher* (d), where it was doubtful whether one of the matters referred had not been excluded from the award, it was set aside as uncertain. This is a similar case. [Kelly. In the case *In the Matter of Rider and Fisher* (e) the arbitrator was expressly called upon by the arbitration bond to adjudicate on certain points, and the award did not notice these.]

1839.

In the Matter of
BROWN and
The
CROYDON Canal
Company.

(a) Reference was made on this point to a case said to have been decided last term by the Court of Exchequer. In *Duckworth v. Harrison*, 4 M. & W. 432., decided in that Court in *Michaelmas* term, 1838, a cause was referred, in which two issues had been joined, one upon a set-off; and the award was general: it was objected to the award, that the set-off should have been specifically adjudicated upon; but the Court said that, "if the parties had intended that the arbitrator should award distinctly upon each issue in the action, they ought to have stated it."

(b) 6 Bing. 519.

(c) 3 New Ca. 219.

(d) 5 Dowl. P. C. 127.

(e) 3 New Ca. 374.

Lord

1839.
—
In the Matter of
BROWN and
The
CROYDON Canal
Company.

Lord DENMAN C. J. Upon a reference to arbitration of all matters in difference between these parties, the arbitrators, after "having fully heard and maturely considered all the evidence produced by" each, and investigated all the accounts and vouchers produced touching the matters in difference and referred, have awarded that there is due from the company to *Brown* 51*l.* 16*s.* 7*d.*, which they order the company to pay. An objection is raised on affidavit that there were several distinct matters in difference, and, particularly, contingent damages, all of which were brought before the arbitrators; and the question is, whether the award can be reasonably taken as a decision upon all those matters. It is admitted (and there is authority to that effect) that an award need not formally express that the arbitrator adjudicates on every matter in difference. Here the affidavit which raises the objection shews that the particulars of *Brown's* claim did raise the question of contingent damage; and that the arbitrators found on that, fusing, as it appears, the whole of the claim allowed by them into one set of damages. It is questioned whether this award would bind the rights of the parties on pleadings in a future action as to the same points. In such an action, evidence must be given to shew what was the subject of adjudication on the reference; and, upon such evidence, *Brown* would be concluded by his present particulars of claim. The rule must therefore be discharged.

LITLEDALE J. I am of the same opinion. Comparing the submission bonds with the recital in the award immediately preceding the adjudication ("we," "having fully heard and maturely considered all the evidence"

evidence" &c.), I think it is clear that the award is upon all the matters in difference. It does not purport to be made "of and concerning the premises,"—but that, according to the later decisions, is not necessary. The award, therefore, is not bad on the face of it. Nor is any sufficient objection raised on affidavit. As to the set-off; if sums are claimed on one side, and set off on the other, I do not think it is necessary that the claims on each side should be noticed by the award; it is sufficient to state the balance. Then it is said that, in this case, a future debt was in difference, and it should have appeared how much was due for that. It is clear that an arbitrator on a reference of matters in difference has power over all matters down to the period of the submission, but cannot award on future and contingent claims. The parties, however, may give him such a power if they think fit; and the arbitrator will then award what is due on each account. That power being given here, it is said that the award ought to have shewn what was due at the time of the submission, and what was the claim for future damage. I see no reason for that. If an action were brought for any part of the contingent damage subsequently arising, the award might be pleaded in bar; and, with a view to that, it would certainly be more desirable that arbitrators, in such a case as this, should set out what is allowed for present and what for future damage. But this is not strictly necessary; the subject-matters of the adjudication may be explained afterwards by evidence, as is done in many cases arising on awards. This part of the question turns more upon what is reasonable and convenient, than what is necessary. There is no ground for making the rule absolute.

1839.

In the Matter of
Brown and
The
Caoydon Canal
Company.

1839.

In the Matter of
BROWN and
The
CROFTON Canal
Company.

WILLIAMS J. The agreement had several years to run at the time of the submission; and, unless *Brown's* claim in respect of that part of the contract had been put an end to, he might have had an action in respect of it at some future period. It is contended that the arbitrators have not decided upon that claim. But the third item of the particular includes it; and what is there to shew that it was not considered? The sufficiency of the award may be tried by asking whether it would be a good defence in an action for loss in consequence of the term being put an end to; and, if those claims actually were brought before the arbitrators and considered by them, that fact might clearly be shewn in such an action, to support a defence grounded on the award.

COLERIDGE J. This award cannot be pronounced uncertain, independently of matters stated on affidavit, unless it can be said that in every instance of such an award the recital must specify the subjects in difference, and the disposing part refer to them. That might be convenient, because then, in an action subsequently brought upon any of the matters referred, the award would give a complete defence. But there is no such rule. The award here must, I think, be taken to be a finding upon the several subjects of the reference: *Platt v. Hall* (a) shews that a more particular statement was not necessary. In *Gray v. Guennap* (b), on the trial of an action of tort, all matters in difference were referred; and, upon the reference, a pecuniary claim of the defendant on the plaintiff was taken into consideration. The arbitrator made his award, not saying "of and

(a) 2 M. & W. 391.

(b) 1 B. & Ald. 106.

concerning the premises," and ordered a verdict to be entered for the plaintiff with 2224*l.* damages. Those words seemed to exclude any notion of a pecuniary set-off having been taken into consideration; yet, as it appeared on affidavit that that claim had been a subject of inquiry, the award was held sufficient. In the present case, the arbitrators have found so much to be due on the whole; and there is nothing on the affidavits to shew that they have not decided every matter in dispute. It does not appear, on a fair construction of the affidavits, that the arbitrators did not take into account the contingent damages; there is only an absence of any direct statement that they did consider them. The award would be a defence in a future action, if it appeared by parol evidence that the subject of the action was before the arbitrators on the reference. Some hardship might arise if such proof became necessary after a lapse of years: but that observation would apply to every case where an award is made the defence to an action. Some identification by parol evidence will always be necessary. The question of hardship is only a question of degree.

1839.

In the Matter of
BROWN and
The
CROYDON Canal
Company.

Rule discharged (*a*).

(*a*) See *In the Matter of Gillon and The Mersey and Clyde Navigation Company*, 3 B. & Ad. 493.; *Doe dem. Madkins v. Horner*, 8 A. & E. 235.

DOE on the Demise of STEPHENS *against*
LORD.

Saturday,
January 12th.

This case is reported, 7 A. & E. 614.

1839.

Thursday,
January 17th.

BABER *against* HARRIS.

Where a lessee assigns and grants over his lease by deed, not containing a covenant for quiet enjoyment, or for indemnity against demands of rent due to the superior landlord before assignment, the assignee, if distrained upon for such rent, may bring an action of covenant against the assignor, founded on the word "grant" in the deed.

And consequently, if, upon such distress, he has paid the rent to release his own goods, he cannot sue the assignor in assumpsit for the amount paid.

Although the assignor, after such distress and payment, has promised the plaintiff to repay him the amount: at least if there be not a new consideration for such promise; as forbearance.

ASSUMPSIT for money lent, money paid, and money had and received, and on an account stated. Plea, non assumpsit.

On the trial before Lord *Denman* C. J. at the sittings in *London* after *Michaelmas* term 1836, it appeared that the defendant, being possessed of certain leasehold premises for the residue of a term, sold his lease, and assigned it by deed, in *February* 1836, to the plaintiff, who entered, and was afterwards distrained upon for rent due from the defendant at *Christmas* 1835. The plaintiff, to liberate his goods, paid the rent. The defendant, being informed by him of the transaction, wrote two letters, expressing regret, and promising him to repay what he had advanced.

The assignment shortly recited the demise to defendant, and the agreement between him and plaintiff for the assignment; and it was then witnessed that defendant bargained, sold, assigned, granted, transferred, and set over the premises to plaintiff, habendum from 25th *March* 1836, for the residue of the term granted by the lease, subject to payment of the rent and performance of the covenants by plaintiff, from *March* 25th, according to the original lease. Defendant covenanted for the validity of the lease, and his own title to assign, and also that plaintiff, his executors and assigns, paying the rent and keeping the covenants, &c., should quietly enjoy the premises, without let, hindrance, &c., from or by defendant, his executors and assigns, or any person or persons

persons claiming by, from, or under him, them, or any of them. Plaintiff covenanted to pay rent and keep the covenants.

The defendant objected that assumpsit was not the proper form of action; and Lord *Denman* C. J. reserved the point. Verdict for plaintiff. In the ensuing term *Stammers* obtained a rule to shew cause why a nonsuit should not be entered. In *Michaelmas* term 1838, •

1839.

BABER
against
HARRIS.

Bagley shewed cause (a). First. Where parties have contracted under seal, but, from the relation between them, an implied contract arises independent of the engagement under seal, assumpsit lies. That principle was recognized in *Burnett v. Lynch* (b), and is supported by *Kinlyside v. Thornton* (c). Here it resulted from the transaction between the plaintiff and *Harris* (but was not expressed in the deed) that *Harris* should protect the plaintiff from liability in respect of the rent due to the superior landlord: and *Hancock v. Caffyn* (d) shews that an action on the case lies for breach of such a duty arising by implication. Secondly, the letters in this case shew an express promise by the defendant after the breach of covenant; and on this, at all events, the action lies. In *Com. Dig. Action upon the Case upon Assumpsit* (C), it is said, "An assumpsit lies" "upon an express promise to pay a debt upon specialty, upon a new consideration; as in consideration of forbearance, &c." "So, it lies for rent, upon an express promise; for it appears, that he intended to give him a double remedy;" to which

(a) November 19th. Before Lord *Denman* C. J., *Patteson*, *Williams*, and *Coleridge* Js.

(b) 5 B. & C. 589. S. C. 8 D. & R. 368. (c) 2 W. BL 1111.

(d) 8 Bing. 358.

1839.

 BABER
 against
 HARRIS.

point *Johnson v. May* (a) and other authorities are cited. "And this, after an assignment of the lease, and an acceptance of rent from the assignee." In *Foster v. Allanson* (b) partners had mutually covenanted to account at the expiration of their partnership; the account was taken and a balance struck; the partner who was found debtor promised to pay; and it was held that assumpsit lay on that express promise. *Moravia v. Levy* (c) is to the same effect. So here, a new contract was superinduced upon the contract under seal, and was properly sued upon in assumpsit. In *Schlencker v. Morsy* (d), which will be relied upon for the defendant, assumpsit was held not maintainable against a mesne landlord for omitting to indemnify his sub-lessee, the plaintiff, against rent due to the ground landlord, the under-tenancy being created by deed; but that judgment rested on the assumption that an action on simple contract was brought for breach of an express contract contained in the deed. In *Bulstrode v. Gilburn* (e) the action of assumpsit was brought for a direct breach of the defendant's covenant to account. And in neither of these cases was there any subsequent promise. Here it must be taken, after verdict, that an express promise, on proper consideration, was proved, *Trevelyan v. Roberts* (g). The recovery in this form of action will not prejudice the defendant; for it might be pleaded in bar to an action hereafter on the covenant; *Blake's Case* (h).

Stammers, contra. There is nothing to exempt this case from the rule that assumpsit does not lie as on

(a) 3 Lev. 150.

(b) 2 T. R. 479.

(c) 2 T. R. 483. note (a).

(d) 3 B. & C. 789.

(e) 2 Stra. 1027.

(g) Hardr. 366.

(h) 6 Rep. 43 b.

simple

simple contract, where the party has a remedy on security of a higher nature. "The party must proceed in debt or covenant where the contract is under seal," "even though the debtor, after such contract were made, expressly promised to perform it;" 1 *Chitty on Pleading*, 103, 6th ed. In *Burnett v. Lynch* (a) the judgment of Abbott C. J. went partly on the ground that an action of covenant would not lie. In *Foster v. Allanson* (b) and *Moravia v. Levy* (c) there had been an actual statement of account. Here an action would lie on the assignor's covenants in the deed of assignment; and, if that be so, it follows that, as was said in *Schlenker v. Moxsy* (d), the express contract by deed excludes any implied contract. The promise after breach, alleged here, is only a promise to do what the party was bound to do by the deed, and will not, therefore, support an action of assumpsit; *Green v. Harrington* (e); *Anonymous Case in Cowper* (g).

1839.

 BABER
 against
 HARRIS.

Cur. adv. vult.

LORD DENMAN C. J. now delivered the judgment of the Court.

The only question in this case is, whether under the circumstances an action of covenant could be maintained upon the indenture of assignment from the defendant to the plaintiff; for, if it could, no action of assumpsit upon an implied promise to indemnify will lie. This doctrine is clearly established in many cases; amongst others in *Bulstrode v. Gilburn* (h), *Toussaint v. Martinnant* (i), and

(a) 5 B. & C. 589. S. C. 8 D. & R. 368.

(b) 2 T. R. 479.

(c) 2 T. R. 483. note (a).

(d) 3 B. & C. 789.

(e) Hutt. 34.

(g) 1 Cowp. 128.

(h) 2 Str. 1027.

(i) 2 T. R. 100.

1839. *Schlenker v. Moxsy* (a). An express promise to pay, if proved, which it was not, could make no difference, at all events without a new consideration, such as forbearance (b); and nothing of that kind was attempted to be shown.

BAKER
against
HARRIS.

Now it is said that this indenture does not contain any express covenant to indemnify against the rent due to the superior landlord, nor for quiet enjoyment. But, if the plaintiff be disturbed in his possession, which he is when distrained upon for rent, an action of covenant will lie upon the word "grant" in the indenture of assignment, which brings this case directly within the authorities above alluded to. This rule for a nonsuit must, therefore, be made absolute.

Rule absolute.

(a) 3 B. & C. 789.

(b) See *Morton v. Burn*, 7 A. & E. 19.

Thursday,
January 17th.

WILKINSON and Another *against* GODEFROY.

Plaintiffs
agreed with
G. to pay him
25*l.* if he per-
formed certain
work to the
satisfaction of a
referee, and that
a cheque for
the 25*l.* should
be deposited
with defendant,
and they agreed
to be handed
to G. if the

ASSUMPSIT for money had and received. Plea, non assumpsit. On the trial before Lord Denman C. J. at the sittings in *London* after last *Michaelmas* term, the following facts appeared. The plaintiffs, silk dyers, were informed that *Peter Godefroy*, the defendant's son, had discovered an improvement in the art of dyeing; and they agreed with P. G. that he should dye some

work succeeded; if not, to be returned to the plaintiffs. The check was so deposited; and defendant presented and obtained cash for it. Afterwards the referee disapproved of the work; but no decision by him was communicated to defendant.

Held, that the action was brought prematurely in respect of the alleged failure of the experiment: And that the turning of the cheque into money by defendant was not a breach of his duty, as stakeholder, which entitled the plaintiffs to recover back the 25*l.* from him as money received to their use; it not appearing by the evidence that the parties had contemplated any distinction between a cheque and money.

silk

silk for them; that, if the colour should be approved of by a Mr. *Beckwith*, the plaintiffs should pay *P. G. 25l.* for the communication of the method; and that a cheque for the *25l.* should be deposited by the plaintiffs with the defendant, to be handed over to *P. G.* if *Beckwith* approved of the colour, but, if not, to be returned to the plaintiffs (a). They drew a cheque for *25l.*; and on *September 2d*, 1838, it was deposited with the defendant on the terms above stated. The experiment was made; and, according to the plaintiffs' witnesses, without success. It appeared that *P. Godefroy* threw the blame upon the workmen. *Beckwith* (who was called as a witness) disapproved of the dye; but no decision by him was communicated to the defendant. On *September 3d* (before the experiment was complete) the defendant obtained payment of the cheque from the bankers on whom it was drawn. On *18th October*, 1838, the plaintiffs' attorneys wrote to the defendant: "We are requested by Messrs. *Wilkinson* and *Claxton* to apply to you for the repayment of *25l.* which has been handed to you in consideration of your imparting to them a secret in the art of dyeing, in which you have failed. If this application be attended to immediately, Messrs *W.* and *C.* will not call upon you for the damage done to their silk, which you have entirely spoiled; but if the amount is not repaid in the course of this week proceedings will be taken against you for the recovery of the *25l.*, and also for the value of the silk which you have damaged." On this case the defendant's counsel contended that the action against him as a stakeholder must fail, for want

1839.

WILKINSON
against
GODEFROY.

(a) The witness's expression on cross-examination was, that, if the colour were not approved of, the money should be returned to the plaintiffs.

1839.

WILKINSON
against
GODEFROY.

of a proper notification to him, before action brought, that *Beckwith* had pronounced the experiment unsuccessful. The plaintiffs' counsel contested this point; and they also urged that, at any rate, the defendant, as stakeholder, was bound to keep the cheque till the result of the experiment had been decided; and that, on his turning it into money, he became liable to the present action. The Lord Chief Justice was of opinion that the action was brought prematurely, as the decision of *Beckwith* had not been communicated to the defendant, and it did not appear that *P. Godefroy* might not, on a further experiment, have succeeded; and, further, that the defendant had not committed a breach of trust in cashing the cheque. The plaintiffs were therefore nonsuited.

Sir *J. Campbell*, Attorney-General, now moved for a new trial, and contended that the Lord Chief Justice's ruling was erroneous on both points. On the latter he urged that, by the agreement under which the cheque was deposited, the defendant was to hold it, not to receive money for it, and was ultimately to hand it over to the party entitled; that his turning it into cash was a breach of trust, the plaintiffs not having contemplated entrusting him with money; and that, on receiving the 25*l.* at the bankers', he became liable for that amount as money had to the plaintiffs' use: and that the plaintiffs were in reality prejudiced by the defendant's act, the money being withdrawn from their own bankers, and subjected, by lying in the defendant's hands, to risk which the plaintiffs had not meant to incur.

LITLEDALE J. I am of opinion that the ruling of the Lord Chief Justice was right in both respects. The
plaintiffs

plaintiffs had no right to recover till *Beckwith's* judgment was communicated to the stakeholder. The money and cheque were the same thing. The defendant did not become such a wrong doer, by cashing the cheque, as no longer to be stakeholder. It might be more convenient that the cheque should be changed. And the contract between the plaintiffs and *Godefroy* the younger was a contract as to money.

1839.

WILKINSON
against
GODEFROY.

WILLIAMS J. I am of the same opinion. *Beckwith* was to be the judge; and his decision was never communicated. It is evident that a cheque was treated by the parties as money.

COLERIDGE J. I was struck at first with the observation as to the effect of cashing the cheque. But the parties had agreed to treat a cheque as money. The argument raises a fallacy, in confounding the son's rights with the defendant's duties. Then, as the defendant was bound to retain the money till *Beckwith's* judgment was communicated, no right of action accrued before that time. No rule can be granted.

Lord DENMAN C. J. concurred.

Rule refused.

1839.

Thursday,
January 17th.

The QUEEN against The Justices of MIDDLESEX.

On appeal at quarter sessions against a county rate, the sessions, in 1837, dismissed the appeal, subject to the opinion of this Court on a case. The case directed that, if this Court should think the appellants entitled to relief on the objection taken, the rate should be amended in a particular

A RULE nisi was obtained in this term, for a mandamus calling upon the justices of *Middlesex* to enter continuances to their next quarter sessions on the appeal of the churchwardens and overseers of the poor of *St. George, Hanover Square*, against a county rate made by the justices of the said county on 27th October 1836, and at such next quarter sessions to quash the said rate.

The rate had been appealed against at the *January* sessions, 1837, under stat. 3 G. 4. c. cvii., local and personal, public (a). The ground of appeal was that, when

the which was specified. A certiorari was obtained, to remove into this Court the order of sessions, with all things touching the same. The sessions sent up the order and special case, but not the rate. This Court quashed the order. At the ensuing sessions, *December* 1838, a motion was made to quash the rate; but the justices refused. No continuances had been entered on the appeal. On motion for a mandamus to the justices to enter continuances to their next sessions, and at those sessions quash the rate,

Writ refused: for, per Lord Denman C. J., and *Littledale J.*, if the rate were quashed otherwise than on certiorari, parties who had acted in collecting it would lose the protection given to such persons by stat. 12 G. 2. c. 29. s. 18., in the case of a rate being quashed.

And, per *Littledale* and *Coleridge Js.*, the quashing of the rate being a judicial act (under a local statute, 3 G. 4. c. cvii.), this Court could not order them by mandamus to perform it.

And, per *Coleridge J.*, *Seem* that a mandamus could not go, because the sessions, when called upon to quash the rate, had not power to do so.

By stat. 3 G. 4. c. cvii. (local and personal, public,) if a county rate for *Middlesex* be made before it appears to the justices that three fourths of the last preceding rate are expended, the order for the rate is to contain a proviso suspending the collection till the three fourths are expended. If a rate be otherwise made, appeal is given to the quarter sessions.

An order for a rate recited that the three fourths were expended, and did not contain the proviso. A party, not having appealed, applied for a certiorari to bring up the rate, on affidavits suggesting that the three fourths had not been expended. Certiorari refused.

(a) Stat. 3 G. 4. c. cvii. (local and personal, public,) is entitled, "An Act for regulating the Office of Treasurer, and altering and amending the Acts now in force for assessing, collecting, and levying of County Rates, so far as the same relate to the County of *Middlesex*."

Sect.

the treasurer's accounts were audited on the first day of the *October* sessions, 1836, three fourths of the sum received under the last rate had not been expended, but that

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The Justices
MIDDLESEX.

Sect. 1 recites stat. 12 G. 2. c. 29., 13 G. 2. c. 18., 37 G. 3. c. 65., 55 G. 3. c. 51., 56 G. 3. c. 49., 57 G. 3. c. 94., 1 & 2 G. 4. c. 85.

Sect. 9 authorises the justices of the peace of *Middlesex*, at general quarter sessions &c., after the treasurer's accounts have been audited and allowed as mentioned in the act, to make quarterly county rates.

Sect. 10 enacts, "That in case, at the time of making any such quarterly rate or rates as aforesaid, it shall not be made appear to the said justices that three fourths or more of the monies actually received by the treasurer for the said county for the time being, on account of the last preceding rate, have been actually and duly expended, then and in such case, and so often as the same shall happen, the order for making any new rate shall contain a proviso or direction, that no monies shall be collected or paid as hereinbefore mentioned, on account of such new rate, until three fourths of the monies so received as aforesaid, on account of the preceding rate, shall have been actually expended as aforesaid, and the said High Constable shall have been authorized as next hereinafter mentioned, to require payment of the monies due on such new rate;" provided, that if three fourths be expended in the interval between two general quarter sessions, the justices, at any adjournment &c., on production of the former order, and on oath by the treasurer that the three fourths are expended, may make an order authorizing payment and receipt of the rate; whereupon it shall be lawful for the High Constables to issue their warrants to churchwardens, &c., demanding payment of the rate; and the same shall be paid as if there had been no such proviso or restriction.

Sect 16 enacts, "That if the churchwarden or churchwardens, overseer or overseers of the poor, or other inhabitant or inhabitants of any parish, township or place, whether parochial or otherwise, where there is no churchwarden or overseer, or person appointed to act as such, shall at any time have reason to think that such parish, township or place is aggrieved or injured by any rate or rates to be made under or by virtue of either of the said recited acts, or of this act, on the ground of any account of the said treasurer, or any part or parts of any such account, not having been audited, or having been unduly or improperly audited or allowed;" "or on the ground of three fourths of any former rate or rates not having been duly expended previously to the making of any new rate or rates, or any other just or reasonable objection to such rate or rates," such churchwarden, &c., or the parish, &c., may appeal to the next general or

1839.

—
The QUEEN
against
The Justices of
MIDDLESEX.

that nevertheless the order for making the new rate did not contain a proviso, according to sect. 10, for suspending the further collection of monies till the said three fourths of the former rate should be exhausted. An account had, however, been delivered at an adjournment of the last-mentioned sessions, before the making of the rate, by which it appeared that three fourths of the former rate had then been expended. The appeal was dismissed, subject to the opinion of this Court on a special case. The case (settled by the chairman), after setting forth the facts, directed that, if this Court should think the appellants entitled to relief on the above objection, the rate should be amended (by an alteration in the date), according to stat. 3 G. 4. c. cvii. s. 16.

The order of sessions, with the case, was removed into this Court by a certiorari commanding the justices to send up the order with all things touching the same, but not requiring the rate to be transmitted. A rule nisi was obtained for quashing the order: the case was argued in *Michaelmas* term 1838 (a); and this Court, being of opinion that the state of the account on the day of audit, and not afterwards, should have been considered in framing the rate, quashed the order of sessions. At the meeting of the justices on their next county day, the chairman informed them of the decision; but stated that the justices would not be inconvenienced, as the rule made by this Court did not quash the rate. At

general quarter sessions for the county, happening within the period in the act specified; and the justices shall, at such sessions, or at some sessions to which they may adjourn the appeal, "hear and determine the causes and matters" of such appeal, "and quash, alter or amend the rate appealed against, or give such other relief in the premises as to them shall seem just and proper."

(a) *Regina v. St. George, Hanover Square, November 14th and 17th, 1838.*

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the *Middlesex* sessions in *December* 1838, a motion was made, on affidavit verifying the special case and the decision of this Court, to quash the rate; but the sessions refused to interfere, the chairman saying that the appeal was no longer before them, and they had no power to do anything in the matter.

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The Justices of
MIDDLESEX.

Sir *J. Campbell*, Attorney-General, and *Prendergast* now shewed cause. To quash the rate now for want of a restrictive clause would answer no purpose. (The observations on this point are omitted.) But the magistrates, when applied to at the *December* sessions, had no authority to quash it, there being no continuances entered on the appeal; for that reason they refused; and the Court will not require parties by mandamus to do that which at the time of refusal they had not power to do. The local act (sect. 16) enables the magistrates, on appeal, either to quash, to alter, or to amend the rate. Assuming that the Court would grant a mandamus to the justices to hear, it will not call on them by mandamus to do one particular judicial act among those which the statute leaves in their discretion, namely, to quash the rate. And this application would have been unnecessary if the parties making it had not been guilty of laches in omitting to bring the rate, as well as the order and special case, before this Court by certiorari, which, by stat. 12 G. 2. c. 29., they might have done. Besides, by sect. 18 of that statute (*a*), if a rate is quashed

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(a) Stat. 12 G. 2. c. 29. (for the more easy assessing, collecting and levying of county rates) enacts, by s. 18., "That no action or suit shall be commenced or prosecuted against any person or persons who has or have been or shall be employed in the collecting or receiving any money in pursuance of the said recited acts, or this present act, on any rate or rates which has or have been or shall be quashed or discharged on any certiorari

1839.
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 The QUEEN
 against
 The Justices of
 MIDDLESEX.

on certiorari, provision is made for reimbursing those who may have paid more than a just assessment under such rate; and the same section protects persons who may have collected or received any money on a rate quashed by certiorari: but no such indemnity is given in either case, if the rate is quashed without a certiorari. The magistrates only desire the opinion of the Court, and are ready to do what shall be directed.

Bodkin and Doane, contra. As to the objection that the sessions, in last *December*, could not quash the rate, because continuances had not been entered, admitting that to be so, they might have entered continuances for the purpose of quashing, or at least this Court may now order them to do so. The appellants have no other remedy. It is contended that the Court will not order justices to do a particular judicial act; but here the persons opposing the application are not only justices but parties. [*Coleridge J.* Why did not you bring up the rate by your certiorari?] The writ commanded the justices to send up the order of sessions with all things touching the same. They should have sent the rate. But, if they had, the case (which was settled by the chairman) did not offer this Court the option of quash-

tiorari brought or to be brought in any of his Majesty's Courts of record at *Westminster*, or otherwise, for any money collected or received, or to be collected or received on any such rate or rates, before such writ of certiorari was or shall be brought and allowed; and that justice may be done to such persons who shall or may pay towards any rate which shall be quashed or discharged, the several sums of money which shall appear to have been paid by them on such rate, either in whole, or in part, more than they ought to have paid, shall be repaid, or allowed to them in the next rate or rates which shall be made in pursuance of this act, as if the same had been paid on such new rate or rates; any thing in any former act," &c., to the contrary notwithstanding.

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ing the rate. [Lord *Denman* C. J. If the rate had appeared bad on the face of it, we might have done so.] The rate was not bad on the face of it; and at all events that suggestion could not be made now. [*Little-dale* J. If the rate is quashed without certiorari, there is no protection for persons who have collected it.] The words of sect. 18 are, "quashed or discharged on any certiorari brought or to be brought in any of his Majesty's Courts of Record at *Westminster*, or otherwise, for any money" &c.

1839.

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The QUEEN
against
The Justices of
MIDDLESEX.

LORD DENMAN C. J. I had hoped that the eighteenth section of stat. 12 G. 2. c. 29. might be found to bear the application contended for on behalf of the appellants. But we cannot so construe it. The words are, that no action shall be brought against any person who shall have been employed in collecting or receiving any money, in pursuance of the act, on any rate which has been, or shall be, "quashed or discharged on any certiorari brought or to be brought in any of his Majesty's Courts of Record at *Westminster*, or otherwise, for any money collected or received," "on any such rate or rates, before such writ of certiorari was or shall be brought and allowed." The clause confines the exemption to cases where the quashing is the act of the Court: therefore by granting a mandamus we should expose persons who have taken part in the collecting of this rate to actions. Supposing that we could grant the mandamus as desired, or could adapt it to the case by altering the terms, I do not see that any benefit would result. If the parties had brought the rate as well as the order of sessions before us by certiorari, we might have
quashed

1839.

—
The QUEEN
against
The Justices of
MIDDLESEX.

quashed the rate; but that was not done. The rule must be discharged.

LITLEDALE J. We cannot grant the writ as prayed. This Court cannot dictate by mandamus the judgment which another court shall give. We might indeed refer it to them to consider what judgment they should pronounce; but I think that, under the circumstances, that cannot be done.

COLERIDGE J. (a). No answer has been given to the objection that the sessions had not power to quash the rate when the application was made to them. And quashing a rate is a judicial act; we cannot dictate that another court shall perform it.

Rule discharged.

On the same day of this term, *January 17th*, Doane obtained a rule calling on the justices of *Middlesex* to shew cause why a certiorari should not issue, to bring up the accounts of the county treasurer from *2d July* to *13th October*, 1838, inclusive, the abstract of the said accounts, and the audit and examination of the same by the committee of justices of the county, the report of the result of the examination signed by six of the committee, dated *16th October* last, the order of sessions made on *1st November* last for the further audit and allowance of the said accounts, the supplemental account of the treasurer from *13th October* to *1st November* last, the order of sessions made on *1st November* last for making and

(a) *Williams J.*, being a parishioner of *St. George, Hanover Square*, gave no judgment.

assessing

assessing a county rate of three farthings in the pound, the original rate, and the order of justices by which the quota of the parish of *St. George Hanover Square* was levied by warrant of distress &c.

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The Justices of
MIDDLESEX.

The affidavits in support of the rule contained statements to shew that, upon reference to the documents mentioned in the rule, it would appear that the balance in the treasurer's hands exceeded one fourth of the last preceding rate. The order for the rate, which was set out in the affidavits, recited that three fourths of the monies collected on account of the last preceding rate had been actually and duly expended; and it contained no proviso for suspending the payment. There were affidavits in answer. On a subsequent day of this term, *January 30th*,

Sir *J. Campbell*, Attorney-General, and *Prendergast* shewed cause. The rate being good on the face of it, the Court cannot quash it upon affidavit. But, independently of this objection to the rule, the parties ought to have appealed to the quarter sessions. Sect. 16 of the local act gives an appeal expressly on the objection now made. No certiorari would be granted to bring up a rate on the ground of inequality, under the general acts, because the proper remedy in such case is appeal: here, therefore, where the remedy by appeal is enlarged, the remedy by certiorari is contracted to the same extent. *Rex v. The Mayor &c. of Gloucester* (a) shews how far the Court will go in supporting rates which are, in their terms, legal.

(a) 5 T. R. 346.

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The Justices of
MIDDLESEX.

Doane contra. The general principle, of allowing no certiorari to bring up a rate where there is an appeal, applies only to the case of rates levied under the general law, and is therefore confined to cases of inequality, which is the only ground of appeal under that law. It is a rule that the writ of certiorari shall not be taken away except by express words: here the attempt is to take it away by an implication founded only on the extension of another remedy. It would be useless to appeal to the sessions on the ground of a supposed state of facts which they themselves have expressly negatived.

LORD DENMAN C. J. The rate is admitted to be good on the face of it; and the power of appeal comprehends the very objection made upon affidavit. The certiorari cannot issue.

LITLEDALE, WILLIAMS, and COLERIDGE Js. concurred.

Rule discharged.

Thursday,
January 17th.

AMOR against FEARON.

If a clerk, retained at a salary to manage a mercantile business, declares that he is a partner, and will transact the business as such, the employer may immediately dismiss him.

ASSUMPSIT. The declaration stated that, in consideration that plaintiff would enter into defendant's service as a clerk and manager to superintend and conduct a business of defendant, to wit the business of a dealer in wine and spirits at a certain establishment &c., at a certain yearly salary, defendant promised plaintiff

Although the party has not committed any other act of misconduct, nor refused, in terms, to go on as clerk.

to retain and employ him in his service in the capacity aforesaid for one year from *July 1st, 1831*, and afterwards, as long as plaintiff and defendant should respectively please, until the end of the current year from *July 1st, 1831*. Averment, that plaintiff entered into the service and continued &c., until and upon 6th *November, 1832*, and was then, and always had been, ready and willing, and then offered, to continue in the said service and employ of defendant in the capacity aforesaid and on the terms aforesaid until the end of the then current year; Breach, that defendant would not continue plaintiff in his employ &c. until the expiration &c.: but, during the current year &c., refused to suffer him to continue &c., and wrongfully dismissed him without any reasonable or probable cause &c., whereby plaintiff lost the salary which he otherwise would have acquired &c., and he and his family were put to inconvenience &c. There were also indebitatus counts, for wages &c. (a), and on an account stated.

Pleas. 1. To the 1st count, non assumpsit. 2. To the same count, that, after the making of the promise in that count mentioned, and just before and at the time of the dismissal &c., to wit on &c., plaintiff conducted himself in such an improper, offensive, disobedient, and insolent manner that defendant was forced and obliged to dismiss plaintiff, and could not longer keep him in his service, and defendant was forc'd and obliged by such conduct of plaintiff to put an end to such service and employ; without this, that defendant then wrongfully dismissed and discharged plaintiff without any reasonable or probable cause in manner and form &c.

(a) The plaintiff, by his particular, claimed, under these counts, wages from *April 30th, 1832*, to *November 6th, 1832*, the day of dismissal; and 30*l.* on a demand, not material here, for board.

1839.

 AMOR
against
FEARON.

Conclusion

1839.

AMOR
against
FEARON.

Conclusion to the country. 3. To the 2d and subsequent counts, payment into Court of 126*l.* 10*s.*

Replication, joining issue on the 1st and 2d pleas. To the 3d, damage *ultrâ*. Issue thereon.

On the trial before Lord *Denman* C. J. at the sittings in *London* after *Michaelmas* term 1838, the following facts appeared. The defendant was a wine and spirit merchant, carrying on business in *Bond Street*. The plaintiff went into his service as a clerk, to manage the business at a yearly salary. He also, at certain periods, received a portion of the profits; but this, as the defendant alleged, was mere gratuity. A disagreement arising between plaintiff and defendant, the latter sent for one *Henderson* (who was called as a witness) and said to him, "I have sent to you to come to manage the business." In a conversation which then passed between plaintiff and defendant in *Henderson's* presence, the plaintiff said, "Have you any wish to see my solicitor?" The defendant answered, "No." The plaintiff then walked round the counter and said, "Then I go on with the business as usual." The defendant replied, "We will see about that;" and, going up to the plaintiff at the counter, desired him to leave the place. The plaintiff said, "When I am satisfied and paid what I require, I will leave." The solicitors of the respective parties came shortly afterwards (having been sent for), and the defendant's solicitor said to the plaintiff, "You claim to be a partner; that puts an end to your being here, and you must go." The plaintiff said, "My solicitor has been waiting for you." In a conversation which followed, the plaintiff's solicitor said to the defendant's, "You must feel that he is a partner." The defendant's solicitor answered, "No, he is not; I must discharge him."

The

The plaintiff was thereupon dismissed. On the following day the plaintiff's solicitor wrote to the defendant: "I beg to give you notice, on behalf of Mr. *John Amor*, that he is quite ready to resume his duties as a partner in the house in *Bond Street*." The plaintiff afterwards filed a bill in equity against the defendant for an account: the bill was dismissed: and the plaintiff then brought the present action. The amount paid into Court was the plaintiff's salary at the rate of 200*l.* a year, down to the time of dismissal.

1839.

AMOR
against
FEARON.

The Lord Chief Justice, in summing up, told the jury that the plaintiff did not now claim to be a partner; and that, as to the dismissal, the question now was, whether the defendant had reasonable and probable cause for it, in the plaintiff's misconduct in assuming to be a partner. After referring to the conversation deposed to by *Henderson*, his Lordship said that the dismissal appeared evidently to have been caused by the plaintiff's claim to be partner; and he stated, as his opinion, that if a servant claimed to overhaul his master's accounts that would put an end to the relation of master and servant between them, and that such relation could not continue where the servant claimed to be a master. And he left it to the jury to say, whether the plaintiff had been dismissed for asserting that he was partner, and whether the claim made was a reasonable ground of dismissal. Verdict for the defendant.

Thesiger now moved for a new trial on the ground of misdirection. The Lord Chief Justice left that to the jury which he ought to have decided himself, namely, whether certain conduct was a reasonable cause of dismissal. And this was not reasonable cause. It may be

1839.

AMON
against
FEARON.

conceded that if a servant claimed to overhaul his master's accounts that would be an act of insolence justifying dismissal. So if he claimed to be master; such an act would be unequivocal. But here the course of transactions between the parties might have led the plaintiff to believe that he was a partner; and he merely intimated his opinion that he was so. He was guilty of no misconduct as a clerk, and of no disrespect to the defendant. If he had refused to do his duty as clerk, on the ground that he was partner, or had committed any act of insubordination, the dismissal would have been justified; but to decide so here would be going farther than any decision warrants. [Lord Denman C. J. He never said that, if not admitted to be partner, he was willing to go on as clerk. *Littledale J.* He only proposed to "go on with the business as usual."] The mere claim to be partner was no ground for a summary dismissal, unless accompanied by some insolence of conduct, or other improper act. To warrant that proceeding there should be some moral misconduct, pecuniary or otherwise, wilful disobedience, or habitual neglect; *Callo v. Brouncker* (a). [Lord Denman C. J. That does not exclude a right of dismissal for claiming to be in a situation inconsistent with that of a servant.] *Atkin v. Acton* (b), *Spain v. Arnott* (c), *Robinson v. Hindman* (d), and *Turner v. Robinson* (e), shew the kind of misconduct necessary to justify an immediate dismissal (g). *Ridgway v. The Hungerford Market Company* (h) is the case most nearly approaching to an authority for the defendant; but there an act of contumacy had been committed.

(a) 4 Car. & P. 518.

(b) 4 C. & P. 208.

(c) 2 Stark. N. P. C. 266.

(d) 3 Esp. 235.

(e) 5 B. & Ad. 789.

(g) See also *Fillicul v. Armstrong*, 7 A. & E. 557.

(h) 3 A. & E. 171.

LITLEDALE J. The cases referred to were properly decided; but this differs from them. In those there was no question that the party was servant, and he had done something improper in that capacity. Here the plaintiff disclaimed being a servant: if the defendant had suffered him to go on in the employment after that, the nature of his situation might have been doubtful to those who dealt at the house, and the circumstances would have been evidence for a jury that the plaintiff really was a partner. Therefore the defendant was justified in dismissing him, and refusing to pay him wages from the time of dismissal.

1839.

AMOR
against
FEARON.

WILLIAMS J. The point which Mr. *Thesiger* says should have been decided by the Judge was a matter of fact. It rests on the facts of the particular case, whether the party has been guilty of a certain amount of disobedience or misconduct. Here, the jury were to determine, on the facts, whether or not the plaintiff intended to set himself up as a partner. If the jury understood that his conduct was an assumption of partnership, that was inconsistent with the plaintiff's being a servant.

COLERIDGE J. The meaning of the plaintiff's verbal declarations, as explained by his solicitor's letter, was a question for the jury; and their inference from the facts must have been that the plaintiff's language was not a claim, civilly advanced, of right to be a partner, but an assertion of that right, so made as to justify the master in refusing, for his own protection, to permit that he should continue doing those acts which he had been doing until that time. The servant had refused to be servant any longer. In the cases cited there was no dispute whether the party dismissed was servant or not.

1839.

AMOR
against
FEARON.

Here he had at once put himself in a situation inconsistent with that in respect of which he claims wages.

Lord DENMAN C. J. concurred.

Rule refused.

Friday,
January 18th.

DOE on the demise of DUNCAN against
EDWARDS.

If a document be produced, under sect. 76 of the Insolvent Debtors' Act, stat. 7 G. 4. c. 57., with a seal purporting to be the seal of the Insolvent Debtors' Court, it is not necessary to prove that the seal is actually the seal of the Court.

THIS ejectment was tried before Lord Denman C. J. at the *London* sittings after last term. The case on the part of the plaintiff was that the defendant was yearly tenant. A six months' notice having been served for *Michaelmas* 1838, it was material to the plaintiff to prove that the tenancy began at *Michaelmas* 1836. The defence was that the tenancy began at *Christmas* 1836; and that the action, therefore, was brought too soon.

The plaintiff tendered a schedule delivered by the defendant as an insolvent debtor, of 1837, containing admissions which (as the plaintiff contended) fixed the commencement of the tenancy at *Michaelmas*. The copy of the schedule was produced, with a seal, purporting to be the seal of the Insolvent Debtors' Court: but no proof was offered that the seal really was that of the Court. Objection was made to the admission of the document without such proof: but the Lord Chief Justice thought it unnecessary, and admitted the document accordingly, directing a verdict for the lessor of the plaintiff.

Neale now moved for a new trial, on the ground that the document was not admissible without further proof.

By

By stat. 7 G. 4. c. 57. s. 76., copies of the schedule and other proceedings, purporting to be signed by the officer, &c., "and sealed with the seal of the said Court," are to be admitted "without any proof whatever given of the same, further than that the same is sealed with the seal of the said Court." Here no such proof was given; and the document was admitted upon the mere fact that *some* seal was upon it. By the recent act, 1 & 2 Vict. c. 110. s. 105., it is enacted that copies of the proceedings shall be evidence, so far as this requisite is concerned, simply on their "purporting to be sealed with the seal of the said Court." This change in the language of the legislature shews their opinion that, under the previous act, it was not sufficient that the seal should *purport* to be the seal of the Court without further evidence.

1839.

DOX dem.
DUNCAN
against
EDWARDS.

LORD DENMAN C. J. The principle recognised in practice seems to be that, when the seal purports to be that of the Court, we take notice that it is so. The provision of the recent act is expressed more distinctly than that of the preceding, merely to prevent mistakes.

LITLEDALE J. I apprehend that it is not necessary to prove the seal.

WILLIAMS J. concurred.

COLERIDGE J. The seventy-sixth section of stat. 7 G. 4. c. 57. does not require proof of the seal of the Court, but only that the document in question is "sealed with the seal of the said Court."

Rule refused.

1339.

Friday,
January 18th.

DOE on the demise of RICHARDSON against
THOMAS and WILLIAMS.

Land which has been annexed to a perpetual curacy of a parish, by the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty under 2 stat. 1 G. 1. c. 10. ss. 4, 21., cannot be leased by the curate so as to bind the successor, if the patron only consent, and not the ordinary.

Though conveyed to the curate and his successors for ever, and allotted and applied by the Governors to the church, and annexed thereto, to go in succession with the church.

Quære, per Lord Denman C. J. and Williams J., whether such curate is one of the persons whose leases are made valid by stat. 32 H. 8. c. 28. s. 1.

Semble, per Littledale J., he is. Per Coleridge J., contra. Agreed by the Court that, if he be within sect. 1, he is within the restriction of sect. 4.

EJECTMENT for a farm and lands in the parish of *Lambston, in Pembrokeshire*. On the trial before Lord Denman C. J., at the *Pembrokeshire* summer assizes, 1836, a verdict was found for the plaintiff, subject to the opinion of this Court upon the following case.

The parish of *Little Newcastle, in Pembrokeshire*, is a perpetual curacy, situated in the diocese of *St. David's*, and is subject to the visitation and jurisdiction of the bishop of that see.

By indenture of bargain and sale, duly enrolled &c., dated 24th September 1791, between *William Summers* of the first part, (who, before and at the time of the execution of the indenture, was seised in his demesne as of fee of and in the several lands, tenements, and hereditaments, in the indenture mentioned to be by him granted, bargained, sold, and confirmed,) the governors of the bounty of Queen Anne for the augmentation of the maintenance of the poor clergy, of the second part, and the Rev. *James Rees*, clerk, curate of the curacy of *Little Newcastle* of the third part, after reciting (amongst other things) that, in 1787, the governors did agree to augment the said curacy a third time, by lot, with the further sum of 200*l.*, out of their revenue, and had ordered the same to be in like manner laid out in a purchase of lands, tithes, or other hereditaments, to be settled for the further perpetual augmentation of the said

curacy,

curacy, according to the rules and orders made and established by letters patent under the great seal, and in pursuance of the trust in the said governors reposed for the distribution of the said bounty; and that the messuage or dwelling-house, closes, or parcels of lands and hereditaments, after described, had, upon due inquiry and examination into the value and other circumstances thereof, been found and approved of by the said governors to be convenient for the further perpetual augmentation of the curacy aforesaid, and of the value of 200*l.*, which was the sum agreed upon for the purchase of the same; it was witnessed that, in consideration of 200*l.* to the said *W. Summers* paid by the said governors, and in consideration of 5*s.* to the said *William Summers* paid by the said *James Rees*, the said *William Summers*, with the approbation and direction of the governors, testified by their common seal being thereunto affixed, did grant, bargain, sell, and confirm unto the said *James Rees* and his successors, curates of the curacy of *Little Newcastle* aforesaid, all that messuage, dwelling-house, and garden with the appurtenances, situate, &c., in the parish of *Lambston*, &c.; and also all those two closes, &c., in the parish of *Lambston*, to hold the said premises unto, and to and for the only use and behoof of, the said *James Rees* and his successors, curates of the curacy of *Little Newcastle* aforesaid, for ever, for the further perpetual augmentation of the said curacy: and reciting, further, that the said messuage or dwelling-house, closes, &c., so purchased and thereinbefore granted, did arise from and out of the bounty granted by Queen *Anne*, and had been purchased with the sum of 200*l.* arising from the said bounty. The said governors, by virtue

1839.

DOE dem.
RICHARDSON
against
THOMAS.

1839.

DOE dem.
RICHARDSON
against
THOMAS.

and in pursuance of the last clause in an act, &c. (2 stat. 1 G. 1. c. 10.), did thereby allot and apply to the church or chapel of *Little Newcastle* aforesaid all and singular the said messuage or dwelling-house, closes, &c., with the appurtenances, and did thereby declare that the same should for ever thereafter be annexed to the said church or chapel of *Little Newcastle*, and should be from thenceforth held and enjoyed, and go in succession, with such church or chapel for ever.

The several hereditaments and premises in the said indenture mentioned to be granted, &c., by *William Summers*, were the premises for which the present ejectment was brought.

In 1800, and at the date of the lease next after mentioned, the said *James Rees* was still the curate of *Little Newcastle*; and his brother *John Rees Stokes* was then the patron and impropriator of the same curacy.

By indenture, dated 15th *January* 1800, between the said *James Rees*, therein described as the curate of the perpetual curacy of *Little Newcastle*, of the first part, the said *John Rees Stokes*, therein described as the patron and impropriator of the same curacy and parish church, of the second part, and *David Evans* of the parish of *Lambston*, in the county of *Pembroke* aforesaid, yeoman, of the third part, *James Rees*, in consideration of the yearly rent, &c., did demise, grant, lease, set, and to farm let, and the said *John Rees Stokes*, for himself, his heirs and assigns, for the consideration aforesaid, did grant, ratify, and confirm, unto *David Evans*, the several hereditaments and premises described and comprised in the said indenture of bargain and sale; to hold the same unto the said *David Evans*, his heirs, executors, administrators,

strators, and assigns, from 29th *September* then last past, for the natural lives of him the said *David Evans*, and two others, and the life of the survivor, yielding and paying therefore yearly, during the said term, unto the said *James Rees*, during his incumbency, and, after, unto the said *John Rees Stokes*, his heirs or assigns, or unto the person or persons who for the time being should be entitled thereto, the yearly rent of 9*l.* 9*s.*

The lands, tenements, and hereditaments included in the said lease were lands which had been most commonly letten to farm, and occupied by the farmers thereof, by the space of twenty years next before such lease was made thereof; and the yearly rent, so reserved upon the said lease as aforesaid, was as much yearly rent or sum as had been most accustomedly yielded or paid for the same lands, &c., within twenty years next before such lease thereof was made.

James Rees died on 28th *September* 1835; and, from the date and execution of the said lease and up to his death, still continued the curate of the perpetual curacy of *Little Newcastle*; and, as such curate, was, up to and at his death, in the receipt of the rent and duties reserved in the lease.

After the death of *James Rees*, viz. on 29th *September* 1835, *Peter Davies Richardson*, the lessor of the plaintiff, was presented to the curacy, and was afterwards, viz. on 13th *October* 1835, duly instituted and inducted into the curacy, and has ever since continued, and still is, the perpetual curate thereof.

One of the persons for whose lives the said lease was granted is still living. The case then explained that the defendants claimed under *David Evans*, and were now in possession of the premises.

1839.

DOE dem.
RICHARDSON
against
THOMAS.

The

1839.

DOE dem.
 RICHARDSON
 against
 THOMAS.

The question for the opinion of the Court was, whether *James Rees* and *John Rees Stokes*, or either of them, had any power to grant the said lease for the term of lives therein stated, without the confirmation of the ordinary of the diocese.

E. V. Williams for the plaintiff. The question is, whether a perpetual curate can let lands annexed to his curacy by the governors of Queen *Anne's* bounty without the confirmation of the ordinary. The patron here has confirmed; but the ordinary has not. In 2 *Burn's Ecclesiastical Law*, 55 (8th ed., *Tyrwhitt*), tit. *Curates*, the following account of the nature of a perpetual curacy is given. "The origin of perpetual curacies was thus: By the statute of the 4 *H. 4. c. 12.* it is enacted, that in every church appropriated there shall be a secular person ordained vicar perpetual, canonically instituted and inducted, and covenably endowed by the discretion of the ordinary. But if the benefice was given *ad mensam monachorum*, and so not appropriated in the common form, but granted by way of union *pleno jure*; in that case it was served by a temporary curate belonging to their own house, and sent out as occasion required. The like liberty, of not appointing a perpetual vicar, was sometimes granted by dispensation, in benefices not annexed to their tables, in consideration of the poverty of the house, or the nearness of the church. But when such appropriations, together with the charge of providing for the cure, were transferred (after the dissolution of the religious houses) from spiritual societies to single lay persons, who were not capable of serving them by themselves, and who by consequence were obliged to nominate some particular person to the ordinary

nary for his license to serve the cure; the curates by this means became so far perpetual, as not to be wholly at the pleasure of the appropriator, nor removeable but by due revocation of the license of the ordinary." And 2 *Gibson's Codex* 819 (2d ed.) is cited. Now, until the curacy was augmented by Queen *Anne's* bounty, it possessed, properly speaking, no endowment: there was only a stipend from the appropriator. By 2 stat. 1 G. 1. c. 10. s. 4., it is recited that Queen *Anne's* bounty "was intended to extend, not only to parsons and vicars who come in by presentation, or collation, institution, and induction, but likewise to such ministers who come in by donation, or are only stipendiary preachers or curates, officiating in any church or chapel where the liturgy and rites of the church of *England*, as now by law established, are and shall be used and observed, most of which are not corporations, nor have a legal succession, and therefore are incapable of taking a grant or conveyance of such perpetual augmentation as is agreeable" to the intention of the late Queen; and it is enacted "that all such churches, curacies, or chapels, which shall at any time hereafter be augmented by the governors of the bounty of Queen *Anne* for the augmentation of the maintenance of the poor clergy, shall be, and are hereby declared and established to be, from the time of such augmentations, perpetual cures and benefices, and the ministers duly nominated and licensed thereunto, and their successors respectively, shall be, and be esteemed in law, bodies politic and corporate, and shall have perpetual succession by such name and names as in the grant of such augmentation shall be mentioned, and shall have a legal capacity, and are hereby enabled to take, in perpetuity, to them and their successors,

1839.

DOX dem.
RICHARDSON
against
THOMAS.

1839.

—
 DOR dem.
 RICHARDSON
 against
 THOMAS.

successors, all such lands, tenements, tithes, and hereditaments, as shall be granted unto or purchased for them respectively by the said governors of the bounty of Queen *Anne* for the augmentation of the maintenance of the poor clergy." By sect. 21 it is enacted that, if the governors "shall by any deed or instrument in writing under their common seal, allot or apply to any church or chapel, any lands, tithes, or hereditaments, arising from the said bounty," &c., "and shall declare, that the same shall be for ever annexed to such church or chapel, then such lands, tithes, and hereditaments, shall from thenceforth be held and enjoyed, and go in succession with such church and chapel for ever." These provisions make the perpetual curate a corporation, capable of taking in perpetuity to him and his successors; but that does not give a right to lease beyond the life of the lessor, nor does it bring the curate within the enabling clause, sect. 1, of stat. 32 *H. 8. c. 28*: and, if it would, then the proviso in sect. 4 of that statute applies, and takes away the ability.

First, at common law the right of the perpetual curate cannot be larger than the common law right of a parson or vicar was. *Littleton*, sect. 644, says, "*Nota quod dictum fuit pro lege*, in a writ of account brought by a master of a college against a chaplain, that if a parson, or vicar, grant certain land which is of the right of his church to another and die, or changeth, the successor may enter, &c. And I take the cause to be, for that the parson, or vicar, that is seised, &c. as in right of his church, hath no right of the fee-simple in the tenements, but the right of the fee-simple abideth in another person; and for this cause his successor may well enter, notwithstanding such alienation," &c. In sect. 645, he adds,

"For

"For a bishop may have a writ of right of the tenements of the right of his church, for that the right is in his chapter, and the fee-simple abideth in him and in his chapter. And a dean may have a writ of right, because the right remains in him. And an abbot may have a writ of right, for that the right remains in him and in his convent. And a master of an hospital may have a writ of right, because the right remaineth in him and in his confreres, &c. And so of other like cases. But a parson or vicar cannot have a writ of right," &c. And in sect. 646, "But the highest writ that they can have is the writ of *juris utrum*, which is a great proof that the right of fee is not in them, nor in any others, &c. But the right of the fee-simple is in abeyance." The *juris utrum* was commonly termed the parson's writ of right. *Littleton* adds, in sect. 648, "Also, some peradventure will argue and say, that inasmuch as a parson, with the assent of the patron and ordinary, may grant a rent-charge out of the glebe of the parsonage in fee, and so charge the glebe of the parsonage perpetually, *ergo* they have a fee-simple, or two or one of them have a fee-simple at the least. To this may be answered, that it is a principle in law, that of every land there is a fee-simple, &c. in somebody, or otherwise the fee-simple is in abeyance. And there is another principle, that every land of fee-simple may be charged with a rent charge in fee by one way or other. And when such rent is granted by the deed of the parson, and the patron, and ordinary, &c. in fee, none shall have prejudice or loss by force of such grant, but the grantors in their lives, and the heirs of the patron, and the successors of the ordinary after their decease. And after such charge, if the parson die, his successor cannot come to the said church

1839.

DOR dem.
RICHARDSON
against
THOMAS.

1839.

—
Dox dem.
RICHARDSON
against
THOMAS.

church to be parson of the same by the law, but by the presentment of the patron, and admission and institution of the ordinary. And for this cause the successor ought to hold himself content, and agree to that which his patron and the ordinary have lawfully done before, &c. But this is no proof that the fee-simple, &c. is in the patron and the ordinary, or in either of them, &c. But the cause that such grant of rent charge is good, is, for that they who have the interest, &c. in the said church, viz. the patron according to the law temporal, and the ordinary according to the law spiritual, were assenting, or parties to such charge," &c. It is therefore clear that the parson and patron had not, between them, the whole fee. Lord *Coke's* commentary, 341. a. &c. confirms this view. In *Butler's* note (B) to *Litt. s. 644*, above cited, it is suggested that the text of that section, when truly read, affirms that the fee-simple is in no one, but in abeyance. *Fearne, Cont. Rem.* ch. 6. s. 3., appears to question the correctness of such a doctrine. It is, however, adopted in 2 *Blackst. Com.* 107, where it is said that the parson of a church "hath only an estate therein for the term of his life; and the inheritance remains in abeyance." Mr. Justice *Coleridge*, in his note (2) on this passage, inclines to *Fearne's* opinion; and considers that the inheritance remains in the grantor. But, whichever view be adopted, the fee-simple is not in the parson, or patron, nor in the two together.

Next, the lease is not warranted by the enabling statute 32 *H. 8. c. 28.* Sect. 1 enacts that leases, under seal, of lands, &c., by persons of full age, "having any estate of inheritance either in fee-simple or in fee-tail, in their own right, or in the right of their churches," &c., shall be as effectual against the lessors, &c., as if they had been
seised

seised "of a good, perfect" and pure estate of fee-simple of such lands "to their own only uses." The passages already cited from *Littleton* and *Coke*, to which may be added *Co. Lit.* 300. b., shew that this applies, not to parsons, who have no inheritance, but to bishops, deans, abbots, and the like, who may maintain a writ of right, having in them the whole estate. At common law, and before the disabling statutes, a corporation aggregate might alien like an individual; but a corporation sole requires confirmation by those *quorum interest*. Sect. 4 of stat. 32 H. 8. c. 28. provides that the act shall not "extend to give any liberty or power to any parson or vicar of any church or vicarage, for to make any lease or grant of any of their messuages, lands, tenements, tithes, profits or hereditaments belonging to their churches or vicarages, otherwise or in any other manner than they should or might have done before the making of this act." It will perhaps be contended that this clause shews that parsons and vicars would have been within the enacting part of the statute, if this proviso had not been inserted, for that otherwise its insertion would have been unnecessary; and that a perpetual curate will therefore be within the enacting part, as having an estate similar to that of the parson or vicar, but not within the proviso, inasmuch as he is neither parson nor vicar. However that might have been if sect. 4 had been in the form of an exception, the argument fails when, as here, the proviso merely declares that the act shall not "extend" to the cases mentioned. If it be said that 2 stat. 1 G. 1. c. 10. s. 4. brings the perpetual curate within the language of the enacting part of stat. 32 H. 8. c. 28., the answer is that it puts him only on a footing with a parson or vicar, for the land is in "the parson and his successors;"

1839.

DOE dem.
RICHARDSON
against
THOMAS.

1839.

Doz dem.
RICHARDSON
against
THOMAS.

cessors ;" *Co. Litt.* 341. a. In *Acton and Pitcher's Case* (a) it was held that a prebendary is within the equity of stat. 32 *H.* 8. c. 28. s. 1., though he be seised in right of his prebend, not his church. *Watkinson v. Man* (b) is to the same effect. And in *Bis v. Holt* (c) this was assumed. But in *Levinz's* report of the last case it is added, " But see 1 *Inst.* 300. b. where, a prebendary is taken as a parson or vicar, not to have the whole fee in him." In all these cases, the question discussed was, whether the prebendary held in right of his church or his prebend ; and, if the latter, whether he was within the equity of the statute : but the question, whether it was an "inheritance" or not, seems not to have been argued. Further, as a perpetual curate was not beneficed at the time of passing stat. 32 *H.* 8. c. 28., he is not within the equity of the act. In *Bisco v. Holte* (d), "Hyde said, that precentors of old foundations are enabled by the statute, but otherwise perhaps of new foundations." The object of stat. 32 *H.* 8. c. 28., as appears by the recital, was to protect lessees of terms from the hardships which they suffered from the avoidance of their terms ; and limitations were laid down, on the other hand, protecting the church. The meaning of statutes must be gathered, not so much from particular words, as from the occasion on which the words are used, and the object of the act: *Stradling v. Morgan* (e), *Abbott C. J.* in *Rex v. Hall* (g). Here the limitation would be

(a) 4 *Leon.* 51.(b) *Cro. Eliz.* 350.(c) 1 *Sid.* 158. *S. C.*, as *Bill v. Holt*, 1 *Keb.* 576. *S. C.*, as *Bisco v. Holte*, 1 *Lev.* 112.(d) 1 *Lev.* 112.(e) *Plowd.* 205. See argument in *Adam v. The Inhabitants of Bristol*, 2 *A. & E.* 395, 396.(g) 1 *B. & C.* 136.

totally destroyed by extending the statute to the present case. And, if the case be within the analogy of the then existing ones of parsons and vicars, it is also within the analogy of sect. 4 of stat. 32 H. 8. c. 28., and the proviso applies. In this view, the curate would be parson, as being he who “personam ecclesiæ gerit;” *Co. Lit.* 300. b. In 3 *Salk.* 377. there is a reference to the *Year Book* of 40 Ed. 3. c. 29, 30. (a), whence it seems that so early as the reign of *Edward III.* the word *parson* was applied to a vicar. It is true that in *Jenkinson v. Thomas* (b) it was held that a curate whose curacy was augmented by Queen *Anne’s* bounty was not within the penalties, stat. 21 H. 8. c. 13. s. 26., for non-residence, not being “beneficed with any parsonage or vicarage.” That, however, was on the construction of a penal act. It seems that the parties obtaining the confirmation here have confounded the case with that of a donative, where the patron is *in loco episcopi*.

Further, the augmentation here took place in 1791; the lease was granted in 1800. Now, by sect. 2 of stat. 32 H. 8. c. 28., the lease can be only of lands most commonly letten to farm or occupied by the farmers thereof, for twenty years next before the lease made. But how can that be satisfied here? The provision cannot refer to cases of letting by other than the ecclesiastical persons, &c., to whom the act refers. The ground of the limitation, as it regards ecclesiastical persons, was, that one incumbent might be trusted with letting what another incumbent had let before; not what any previous owner had chosen to let. Could a perpetual curate let a house granted, for residence, by

1839.

—
Dor dem.
RICHARDSON
against
THOMAS.

(a) *Yearb. Trin.* 40 Ed. 3. f. 27 B. pl. 5.

(b) 4 T. R. 665.

1839.

DOE dem.
RICHARDSON
against
THOMAS.

the governors, because it had been let before? That would often defeat the object of the augmentation. The same line of argument applies to the amount of rent. And this principle appears to be confirmed by the instances given in 4 *Bac. Abr.* 712. (a), *Leases and terms for years* (E.) 2. *Rule 6.* *Doe dem. Tennyson v. Lord Yarborough* (b) shews that, where there has been no letting before, the lands cannot be let, even though previously waste.

Chilton, contra. The last argument would shew that a tenant in tail could not, under stat. 32 *H.* 8. c. 28., let lands which his father had purchased, a year before, from the owner of the fee-simple, though they had been let for any length of time. The language of sect. 1 of stat. 32 *H.* 8. c. 28. would clearly have included parsons and vicars, had they not been excepted by sect. 4. Then 2 stat. 1 *G.* 1. c. 10. s. 4. puts perpetual curates, as to the augmentation, on the footing on which parsons and vicars were before the act. And therefore the enacting section of the former statute applies to perpetual curates, they not being excepted. The cases cited, as to the right of a prebendary to let, all proceed on the ground that he has an estate sufficient, if it be in right of his church: the assumption applies precisely to the case of a perpetual curate, though the difficulty does not. In *Ensden and Denny's Case* (c) the power of a precentor or prebendary to let is put on the footing that he is within the analogy of a parson or vicar in stat. 32 *H.* 8. c. 28., but not within the exception in sect. 4. That applies precisely here. The fee-simple

(a) 7th edit.

(b) 1 *Bing.* 24.(c) *Palm.* 104. See *Hale* in note (8) to *Hargrave's Co. Lit.* 44. b.

must be in the curate, or the curate and patron: for the grantor has, as the case shews, parted with his whole estate. Lord *Coke* does not appear to have formed a decided opinion as to the nature of the estate of the parson. In *Co. Litt.* 44. a. he attributes the disabling acts there cited to the power of parsons, among others, to let. In *Co. Litt.* 8. b. he says that the parson, vicar, &c., takes an inheritance by the words "to him and his successors." In *Co. Litt.* 44. b. the inability of the parson or vicar to lease is referred solely to the exception in sect. 4 of stat. 32 H. 8. c. 28. In *Co. Litt.* 67. a. it is said that parson or vicar hath a qualified fee, and to many intents but an estate for life, so that he can neither receive nor do homage. His meaning in this passage (which, however, seems inconsistent with *Co. Litt.* 341. b.) is explained by the passage at 300. b., where "parson, prebend, vicar," are treated as having similar powers: and they are said not to have the absolute fee in them, "for to their grants the patron must give his consent." And in 341. b. the parson or vicar is said to have a fee-simple qualified, to be capable of receiving homage (which a tenant for life is not), and of maintaining certain writs which none can maintain but a tenant in fee-simple or fee-tail. In 1 *Gibson's Codex*, 792. (2d ed.), tit. 31. c. 2., note c, it is said that "parsons and vicars being specially excepted in sect. 4. it follows, that all *other sole corporations are included*, and are hereby *enabled* to bind their successors. Accordingly, it hath been adjudged, on several occasions, that *præcentors*, *chancellors*, *treasurers*, and *prebendaries*, of churches, are all within the benefit of this statute." It may be argued that the right of the prebendary rests on his superior dignity; but the dignity does not appear to be much superior to that of

1839.

DOX dem.
RICHARDSON
against
THOMAS.

1839.

DOE dem.
RICHARDSON
against
THOMAS.

a perpetual curate. In 1 *Gibson's Codex*, 172. (2d ed.), tit. 8. c. 2. note *b*, it is said "*præbenda dicitur à præbendo, quia præberet auxilium episcopo*, saith my Lord *Coke*, which leaves no distinction between a *canonry* and a *prebend*: whereas, in truth, the first is a name of *office*, and the second only of *maintenance*; and a *prebendary* was so called, not from the assistance he afforded to the *bishop*, but from the assistance the church afforded *him*, in meat, drink, and other necessities. And, therefore, in one of the councils abroad, we find it called *præbenda canonicalis, quæ consistit in pane, et vino, et quibusdam aliis*." It is added (citing *Lyndwood*), "*nascitur ex canonis, tanquam filia à matre*." *Jenkinson v. Thomas* (*a*) clearly shews that the proviso in sect. 4 of stat. 32 *H. 8. c. 28.* does not apply to a perpetual curate. In the note (*r*) to 2 *Burn. Ecc. L. 55.* (*Curates*), 8th ed., it is said, "A perpetual curacy is not an ecclesiastical benefice, but is tenable with any other benefice, *Weldon v. Green*, 1772, adjudged by Sir *Geo. Hay* in a suit by the patron against his clerk incumbent, who had accepted such a curacy after his institution and induction into the benefice, which this suit was intended to make void: as, by the ecclesiastical law, the acceptance of any ecclesiastical benefice, of ever so small value, without a dispensation, makes any former ecclesiastical benefice void. *Communicated to the late Mr. Serjeant Hill by Dr. Scott, now Lord Stowell*." And the language of stat. 17 *C. 2. c. 3. s. 7.* shews that the words *parsons* and *vicars* do not comprehend *perpetual curates*. [*Littledale J.* You say that stat. 32 *H. 8. c. 28. s. 1.* applies, because the curate is seised of an inheritance in

(a) 4 *T. R.* 665.

right of his church: but does the statute mean other than a parish church?] The case finds that this is a parish church. [*Coleridge J.* The statement that a perpetual curacy exists assumes that there is a church and rector. *Littledale J.* In *Com. Dig.*, tit. *Ecclesiastical Persons*, among persons secular, we find seculars, archdeacons, parsons, and vicars: a curate seems to be a subordinate kind of person. Is he more than a subordinate or secondary vicar?] However that may be, 2 stat. 1 G. 1. c. 10. (ss. 4, 21.) brings the office within the enactment of stat. 32 H. 8. c. 28. s. 1.

1839.

DOX dem.
RICHARDSON
against
THOMAS.

E. V. Williams, in reply. Whatever varieties of expression Lord *Coke* may have used in designating the estate of the parson or vicar, it is clear (as, for example, from *Co. Lit.* 341. a., that he considered that he had not the power so to act as to prejudice his successor. But the lease here would prejudice the successor. *Ensden and Denny's Case* (a) merely follows *Watkinson v. Man* (b), which again only follows *Acton and Pitcher's Case* (c). Even if the perpetual curate be seised in fee, it is not in right of the church: the whole church belongs to the impropiator. [*Coleridge J.* Has a bishop any thing in a cathedral? Yet he clearly is within stat. 32 H. 8. c. 28. s. 1.] The statute cannot have meant to annex the power of leasing to such an estate as that of a perpetual curate.

LORD DENMAN C. J. I doubt much whether the perpetual curate has any fee-simple at all; and, if he has not, he is not within stat. 32 H. 8. c. 28. s. 1. Next,

(a) *Palm.* 104.(b) *Cro. Eliz.* 350.(c) 4 *Leon.* 51.

1839.

DOX dem.
 RICHARDSON
 against
 THOMAS.

even if he has, I doubt whether it be in right of the church : for he gets his fee, if at all, by force of 2 stat. 1 G.1. c. 10. ss. 4, 21. But, if he has a fee-simple in right of the church, does he not fall within sect. 4 of stat. 32 H. 8. c. 28.? It is said that the act did not contemplate the case of land given to the perpetual curate in succession : if it had, it would have included the case in sect. 4. But, if the estate can be brought within sect. 1, can we not also bring it within sect. 4? The curate is not the rector ; he has not the great tithes : nor can he be called the parson, which implies a peculiar character. But he appears to be a vicar : for he serves the church in that capacity. *Jenkinson v. Thomas (a)* certainly seems opposed to this view : but the Court was there construing a penal statute. The clause in the present case must receive a more liberal construction. I am therefore of opinion that, if a perpetual curate be within sect. 1 of stat. 32 H. 8. c. 28., he is also within sect. 4. His power is, therefore, no more than it would have been before that statute ; and the lease is void as against the successor for want of the ordinary's consent.

LITLEDALE J. In answer to my doubt, whether the perpetual curate could be said to have any land in right of the parish church, it was urged that the case so stated the fact. It is true that the messuages and lands are allotted and applied to the church or chapel of the parish ; and the patron and impropiator of the curacy and parish church are also spoken of in the lease, as well as the perpetual curacy of the parish. Yet the documents

(a) 4 T. R. 665.

speak of the curate and curacy throughout; and the grant is to the curate and his successors. Now, has the curate the land in right of the church? If not, there is an end of the question, though he have a fee. As to this last point, I think it makes no difference whether he has a fee-simple, or only something in the nature of a fee-simple. To all intents and purposes, his estate resembles that of an archbishop, who can no more sell than a parson. The curate has not the land to him and his heirs; but he has it to him and his successors; I think, therefore, that he has, within the meaning of the statute, an estate in the nature of a fee-simple. But has he it in right of his church? Clearly, at the time of passing stat. 32 H. 8. c. 28., he had no land in such a right. Then has he it in that right, under 2 stat. 1 G. 1. c. 10.? There may be a difficulty as to the meaning of the word *church*, in sect. 1 of stat. 32 H. 8. c. 28., whether it mean the actual parish church, or the church generally speaking; as a bishop holds, not in right of this or that particular church, but still of the church generally. I admit, on the whole, that the curate may be said to be seised in fee-simple in right of his church. But then, is he within sect. 4 of stat. 32 H. 8. c. 28.? He is not vicar by name: but is he so in effect? I think he is something less. A vicar is one who is substituted for the rector, to serve the church, the tithes being in the hands of a lay rector. The perpetual curate, who in fact stands in the place of the vicar, cannot be more than a vicar. If, therefore, the perpetual curate be brought within the equity of sect. 1 of stat. 32 H. 8. c. 28., I think he is also brought within that of sect. 4.

1839.

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 Doe dem.
 RICHARDSON
 against
 THOMAS.

1839.

DOX dem.
 RICHARDSON
 against
 THOMAS.

WILLIAMS J. It is clear, from what has been conceded, that there is no ground for contending that a perpetual curate was within stat. 32. *H. 8. c. 28. s. 1.*, before the passing of 2 stat. 1 *G. 1. c. 10.* Till then, he was a mere stipendiary performing the clerical duties of the church. Then, the whole question is, whether 2 stat. 1 *G. 1. c. 10.* gives the perpetual curate a fee in right of his church. That would be saying a great deal, and more, probably, than would be consistent with the claims of the patron and the lay impropriator. Vicars are mentioned by name in stat. 32 *H. 8. c. 28. s. 4.* When we consider the origin of perpetual curates and vicars, it seems that either the curates come within the denomination of vicars or do not come at all within the enabling words of sect. 1. There can be no doubt that they do come within the general intent of the disabling clause, sect. 4, although, in a question upon enforcing a penalty (*a*), it was held that they were distinct from vicars or parsons. This is a case not contemplated at the time of passing stat. 32 *H. 8. c. 28.*; and, by holding that the curate, if brought within sect. 1, is also brought within sect. 4, we are only carrying into effect the meaning of the legislature.

COLERIDGE J. I agree that judgment must be given for the plaintiff. It follows naturally from the course of the argument that we should come to our conclusions on grounds somewhat different; since it is contended that the curate is not within sect. 1 of stat. 32 *H. 8. c. 28.*, and also that, if he be, he is within sect. 4. My opinion is, that he is not within sect. 1. It is admitted that,

(*a*) *Jenkinson v. Thomas*, 4 *T. R.* 665.

when

when the statute passed, a perpetual curate was not within it. That being clear, and the law being still so with respect to every perpetual curate who is not brought within the section by a subsequent statute, we should clearly see our way before we say that any perpetual curate is now within it. Whether the perpetual curate here has a fee-simple, is a very difficult and disputable point; but it is not necessary for me to decide that. For, whether he have a fee-simple or not, he has it not in right of his church. I do not think that 2 stat. 1 G. 1. c. 10. alters the estate or interest of a perpetual curate: it merely turns the land into a benefice, and makes the endowment indefeasible. But it does not extend the parochial domain: if the land was not held in right of the church before, it is not so now. As there is a curate, there must, of course, be a lay rector; the repair of the church, and other analogous duties, devolve on him. The history of the office of perpetual curate shews that he was a kind of vicar performing ministerial duties, and nothing more. His estate is not altered; and, whether or not he holds in fee, he has no inheritance in right of his church. I need not consider sect. 4 of stat. 32 H. 8. c. 28.; but I agree that a perpetual curate, if brought within sect. 1, can be so only by a course of reasoning which would bring him within sect. 4. He could be within sect. 1 only as standing in the place of the vicar: if he does so stand, it is difficult to say that he is not within sect. 4. That would lead to the same conclusion as we now arrive at. Nothing that we have said contravenes *Jenkinson v. Thomas* (a), which was on the construction of a penal statute. It is too late now to say that the same

1839.

DOX dem.
RICHARDSON
against
THOMAS.

(a) 4 T. R. 665.

1839.

Doz dem.
 RICHARDSON
against
 THOMAS.

rules of construction are to be applied to penal statutes as to others.

Judgment for plaintiff.

REEVES and Another *against* M'GREGOR and Another.

A cause and all matters in difference, including an equity suit, were referred to arbitration, with power to the arbitrator to direct such verdict as he thought proper, and to determine what should be done by either party touching the matters in dispute. The costs of the cause and equity suit were to abide the event of the award; the costs of the reference and award to be in the arbitrator's discretion. The bill in equity, filed by the defendants in the action against the plaintiffs, prayed, among other things,

an injunction against further proceeding in the action.

The arbitrator directed that a verdict should be entered for the plaintiffs at law, with damages, on some issues in the cause, and for the defendants on the others: but he ordered that no execution should be taken out by the plaintiffs; and that, after entering of the verdict as above, and any judgment thereon, all proceedings on the judgment by either party to the action should be stayed. But for such direction the verdict would have entitled the plaintiffs to the general costs. He also directed that the suit in equity should cease.

Held no excess of the arbitrator's authority

COVENANT on an indenture of lease. Six issues were joined. The cause coming on for trial at the Croydon Summer assizes, 1836, a verdict was taken for the plaintiffs, subject to a reference of the cause and all matters in difference, including a suit in equity, between the parties, to a barrister, who was empowered to order a verdict to be entered for the plaintiffs or defendants, and to order and determine what he should think fit to be done by either party respecting the matters in dispute. The order of nisi prius directed that the costs of the cause, and of the suit in equity, should abide the event of the award; the costs of the reference and award to be in the arbitrator's discretion.

The award recited that the suit in equity was brought by the defendants in the action at law against the plaintiffs therein, who had put in their answer; that the defendants at law, by their bill in equity, after alleging that the plaintiffs at law had commenced an action against them (being the cause now referred) for supposed breaches of covenants in the above-mentioned

lease,

lease, prayed that the plaintiffs at law might be ordered by decree to license certain alterations in the demised premises, or might be restrained by injunction from bringing any action against the defendants at law in respect of such alterations, and, in the mean time, from proceeding in the present action, or commencing any other in respect of the matters therein complained of. The arbitrator then stated certain other matters in difference between the parties : and he proceeded to award, as to the action at law, that the verdict should stand for the plaintiffs, with reduced damages, on three of the issues joined, and for the defendants on the other three : and, as to the suit in equity, he awarded that the defendants at law were not entitled to the license prayed, nor to any relief in respect of the matters involved in the issues found for them by the award ; but, as to the other issues, he awarded as follows.

“I do find, adjudge,” &c., “that the plaintiffs in equity were and are entitled in equity to be protected from and against the damages and the costs of the plaintiffs at law in respect of the verdict so ordered to stand for them at law on the three issues so found for the said plaintiffs at law ; and that the said plaintiffs in equity were and are entitled to be relieved from and protected against any other or further action at the suit of the said plaintiffs at law in respect of the alterations involved in the issues found for the plaintiffs at law ; but, subject to this, that the costs and expenses incurred in the said suit in equity, and in the said action at law, should be borne and sustained by the respective parties to the said suit and action by whom the same have been incurred. And, inasmuch as by the said order of reference I am authorised and empowered to order and determine

1839.

RESVES
against
M'GREGOR.

1839.

REEVES
against
M^cGREGOR.

determine what I shall think fit to be done by either of the said parties respecting the matters in dispute, I do accordingly order, determine, and direct that the said suit in equity be no further prosecuted, but that the same be wholly put an end to and determined, and that no further proceedings be had therein, save as herein-after mentioned. And I do award," &c., "that no execution or executions or other proceeding whatever be taken by the said plaintiffs at law upon any judgment which may be entered up by or for them upon the said verdict so directed to stand for them as to certain of the issues at law, to enforce either the damages by that verdict assessed, or the costs at law consequent thereon. And I do award," &c., "that, after the entering of the verdict so before awarded, and any judgment that may be entered and signed thereon, all proceedings on the said judgment by any or either of the said parties to the said action be wholly and for ever stayed and put an end to. And I do award," &c., "that no further or other action be brought by the said plaintiffs at law against the said defendants at law in respect of the said alterations so made as in the pleadings of the said action at law and suit in equity respectively mentioned. And I do further award," &c., "with respect to the said suit in equity, that the said plaintiffs in equity do and shall cause their own bill to be dismissed, but without costs; and that the said defendants in equity do and shall, if necessary, appear and consent that the said bill be so dismissed without costs."

The arbitrator then proceeded to award specially as to the other matters in difference, deciding some points in favour of the plaintiffs at law, and others in favour of the defendants.

A rule

A rule nisi was obtained, in *Michaelmas* term 1837, for setting aside the award, so far as related to the plaintiffs at law not proceeding to recover the costs of the issues found for them, the damages on those issues, and the general costs of the cause, and also the costs of the suit in equity, on the ground that the arbitrator had in those respects exceeded the power conferred on him by the submission, and made his award inconsistent therewith, and with the other parts of the award.

1839.

REEVES
against
M'GREGOR.

Cresswell and *Joseph Addison* now shewed cause. If nothing but the action at law had been in question, the plaintiffs, on the arbitrator's finding as to that action, would have been entitled to the general costs of the cause, and those of the three issues found for them. But the costs are to abide the event of the whole award. The arbitrator's duty was to give such relief in the equity suit as he thought just, and as a court of equity would have granted. Had he omitted to determine on the prayer for an injunction, the award would not have decided all the matters referred. The whole event is, that the plaintiffs at law have a verdict on three issues, without power to issue execution for costs. They are legitimately deprived of costs, by the event of the award. There is indeed a clause intimating that the parties to the action and equity suit should bear their own costs thereof respectively: but that is not a direct adjudication; it is rather in the nature of a recital.

Platt and *Petersdorff*, contra. The intention of the parties referring clearly was, that the arbitrator should have no discretionary power over any of the costs, except those of the reference and award, which are expressly

1839.

 REEVES
 against
 M^cGREGOR.

pressly distinguished from the others by the order of nisi prius. It is contended that the event means the event of the whole award: but the construction must be distributive; that the costs of each suit shall follow the event, as it regards that suit. The event, here, as to the action at law, would entitle the plaintiffs to costs. If the event were to be regarded as to all the matters referred, there is no general result of the award which could decide the question of costs; for the determination of the equity suit is not wholly in favour of the defendants at law; and on the other matters of the reference each party has succeeded in some respects. In any view of the case, the arbitrator has usurped an authority over the costs. It has been held, where costs of a suit were to abide the event of an award, that the arbitrator could not order a stet processus (a). The clause directing that the parties shall bear their own costs respectively of the equity suit and action at law is at all events an excess of authority.

Cur. adv. vult.

Lord DENMAN C. J., in this term (*January 11th*), delivered the judgment of the Court.

This was a motion to set aside an award on the ground of excess of authority. This action and a suit in equity by the present defendants against the present plaintiffs, praying for an injunction to restrain the plaintiffs from proceeding in this action, were referred, and the costs of the action and of the suit in equity were directed to abide the event of the award. There were six issues in the action, as to three of which the arbitrator has found

(a) *In re Leeming v. Fearnley*, 5 B. & Ad. 403.

for the defendants, and, as to so much of the suit of equity as regards them, against the defendants, on the ground of want of equity, they having a legal defence. As to the other three issues he has found for the plaintiffs with 5*l.* damages; but, as to so much of the suit in equity as regards them, has awarded that the plaintiffs shall be restrained, and shall not proceed to recover the damages found for them, nor costs. This is the clause complained of as an unauthorised interference with the costs of the cause: but we are of opinion that the arbitrator has not thereby exceeded his authority. The event of the award," which the costs were to abide, means, the ultimate and general event, not each particular part; and, as the suit in equity which was referred prayed an injunction, the arbitrator clearly had power to order that the plaintiffs should be restrained on equitable grounds from proceeding to recover all that which on legal grounds they were entitled to. It is true that he thus exercises indirectly a jurisdiction over the costs at law; but that is in the exercise of a power necessarily resulting from the nature of the reference, and without which he could not have properly adjudicated upon the suit in equity: it is by no means the exercise of a discretion as to the costs, such as the reference meant to exclude; and the costs are still left to abide the event, as the parties intended. The rule must therefore be discharged, but without costs.

Rule discharged.

1839.

REEVES
against
M'GREGOR.

1839.

DOE, on the demise of JOHN DOLLEY, *against*
WARD and Others.

Devise of freehold to testator's daughter Sarah for life, and from and after her decease to "such of her children as she now has or may have, if a son or sons, at his or their ages of twenty-three;" if a daughter or daughters, at her or their ages of twenty-one, in fee; and, in case of the death of any son or daughter of Sarah under the prescribed age, his or her share to go to the survivors and survivor of them on attaining the prescribed age, in fee; and, if

Sarah should have but one child who should attain the prescribed age, all the premises to go to such only child, so attaining such age, in fee: the rents and produce of the devised premises to be applied by trustees to the maintenance of the said grandchildren till they should attain the above ages. Devise over, to a son and other daughters of the testator, and their children, if all the children of Sarah should die under the prescribed ages; and a further clause directing the rents and profits to be applied for the maintenance of the children of Sarah, or of the son's and other daughters' children, "until they become respectively interested as before mentioned." Devise over (after some intermediate clauses), if all the testator's grandchildren then born or thereafter to be born should die under the prescribed ages "without leaving any child or children them or any of them surviving." Sarah survived the testator, and died, leaving children.

Held, that, by the will, such children took a vested interest on Sarah's death, and, consequently, that the devise to them was not void for remoteness.

A CASE was stated for the opinion of this Court, under stat. 3 & 4 W. 4. c. 42. s. 25., in substance as follows.

Thomas Dolley, being seised in fee of the freehold and possessed of the leasehold premises after mentioned, made his will on June 12th, 1819, whereby, after disposing of certain freehold and leasehold estates in favour of his son (the lessor of the plaintiff), and the son's children, and after certain other devises in favour of the testator's own children, he devised as follows.

"I give to the said Thomas Challis and John Brogden (a) all those my five freehold houses in Harp Court" (describing them), "nine freehold houses in Black Horse Court" (describing them), "and my leasehold house (describing it), "with all rights and appurtenances," &c.: "also ten shares in the Eagle Insurance, London: To hold all the said last-mentioned freehold and lease-

(a) These trustees were also named executors.

hold premises and *Eagle* Insurance shares unto the said *T. C.* and *J. B.*, their heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, according to the nature thereof respectively, during the natural life of my said daughter *Sarah Ward*: Upon trust that they," or the survivor of them, &c., "do pay, or permit my said daughter *S. W.* from the quarter-day next after my decease to receive and take, the rents, issues, interest, and annual profits thereof respectively for and during the term of her natural life," to her own sole use, independently of any husband, "if my estate and interest in the leasehold part so long continue" (her receipts to be good discharges for rent &c.; she keeping the premises in repair &c.): "And, from and after the decease of my said daughter *S. W.*, I give the said last-mentioned freehold and leasehold premises and *Eagle* shares unto such of her children as she now has or may have, if a son or sons, at his or their age or ages of twenty-three years, and, if a daughter or daughters, at her or their age or ages of twenty-one years, their respective heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, according to the nature thereof, as tenants in common: And, in case of the death of any child or children of her my said daughter, if a son or sons, under the age of twenty-three years, and a daughter or daughters, under the age of twenty-one years, the share or shares of each such child, son or daughter, so dying, to go to the survivors and survivor of such child and children, being a son or sons, on his or their attaining the said age of twenty-three years, and, if a daughter or daughters, on her or their attaining the age of twenty-one years, and their heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, in equal shares, as tenants in common: And, in case my said last-

1839.

Dox dem.
DOLLEY
against
WARD.

1839.

DOE dem.
DOLLEY
against
WARD.

named daughter has only one child, if a son, that shall live to the age of twenty-three years, and, if a daughter, that shall live to the age of twenty-one years, I give all the said last-mentioned premises and *Eagle* shares unto such only child so attaining such age, his or her heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns for ever, or during my estate in the leasehold part; and direct that the rents, issues, interest, and annual produce shall, until my said grandchildren attain such ages as aforesaid, be paid and applied for and towards their maintenance and education. And further, in case all the children of my said daughter *Sarah*, if a son or sons, shall die under the age of twenty-three years, or, if a daughter or daughters, shall die under the age of twenty-one years, then I give all the said last-mentioned premises and *Eagle* shares unto the said *Thomas Challis* and *John Brogden*, their heirs, executors, and administrators, during the respective lives of my said son *John Dolley* and daughters *Ann Dolley* and *Elizabeth Maria Dolley*, upon trust to pay, or permit my said son and two daughters to receive and take, the rents, profits, interest, or other the annual income thereof for and during their respective natural lives in equal shares," the daughters' shares for their separate uses, independent of husbands, "if my estate in the leasehold part so long continue; and, upon the decease of my said son and two daughters, I give the share of such of them so dying unto his or her children, if a son or sons, living to the age of twenty-three years, and, if a daughter or daughters, living to the age of twenty-one years, his, her, and their heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, if more than one in equal shares, and, if only one child, to such only child, his or her heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns. And further, in case of the death of my said son, or of either of my said

two daughters without leaving a child, if a son, who shall live to the age of twenty-three, or, if a daughter or daughters, who shall live to attain to the age of twenty-one years, I give the part and parts such child or children, sons or daughters, would have had and been entitled unto as aforesaid unto the child or children of my said son and two daughters having issue, son or sons, daughter or daughters, living to attain the ages aforesaid, if two of my said last-named children have such children or child, to them, her, or him as taking in equal shares from his, her, or their father or mother, his, her, and their heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns: and, if only one of them, my said son and two daughters, leaves issue that lives to attain the age or ages aforesaid, then I give the whole of such freehold and leasehold premises and *Eagle* shares unto such issue, if more than one, in equal shares, their heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, as tenants in common; and, if only one, to such one, his or her heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns. And it is also my will that the rents, profits, and interest of the said last-mentioned premises and shares shall, after all necessary outgoings for repairs, ground-rent, and insurance, be applied for and towards the maintenance of the children of my said daughter *Sarah*, or of my said son and two other daughters' children, until they become respectively interested as before mentioned" (a).

The

(a) By the terms of the special case, either party was to be at liberty to refer to any part of the will. The following clauses (subsequent to the above, and preceding the clause next cited in the text) were not set out in the case, but were referred to in argument.

"I give to the said *Thomas Challis* and *John Brogden*, their executors and administrators, until my grandson *William Ward* attains his age of twenty-three years, if he so long lives, my leasehold house and premises

R r 2

in

1839.

DOX dem.
DOLLEY
against
WARD.

1839.

DOE dem.
DOLLEY
against
WARD.

The will contains no other specific devise or bequest exclusively applicable to the said hereditaments and premises; but, after certain devises and bequests of other real and personal estate unto or in favour of *Ann Dolley* and *Elizabeth Maria Dolley*, two other of the said testator's daughters, and their children respectively, it contains a clause in these words.

“ And, in case of the death of all my grandchildren,

in *Walbrook Place, Hoxton*, in the parish,” &c. “ held by me for a long term of years, subject to the rent and covenants in the lease, upon trust to receive and pay the net rent thereof unto my said grandson until he attains that age, on his own receipt for the same; and, on his attaining the age of twenty-three years, I give the said leasehold house and premises unto him my said grandson, his executors, administrators, and assigns, for all the then residue of the said term, subject as aforesaid: but, in case of his death under that age, I give the said house and premises unto my said trustees, their executors and administrators, until his eldest brother or eldest sister for the time being shall live to attain his or her age of twenty-three years, at which time I give the said house and premises unto such brother or sister first living to attain his or her age of twenty-three years, his or her executors, administrators, and assigns, for all the residue of the said term, subject as aforesaid, and direct and authorize my said trustees, their executors or administrators, to receive and pay the rents and profits of the said house and premises to such brother or sister of my said grandson as may for the time being be his eldest brother or eldest sister, until he or she attains the age of twenty-three years, on his or her own receipt for the same.”

The testator directed the residue of his personal property to be sold, and ordered his executors, out of the proceeds, “ to pay unto such of my grandchildren already born, or hereafter to be born, as shall be living at my decease, or unto their father or mother, or such person or persons as shall for the time being maintain and educate them respectively, the yearly sum of 9*l.* by half-yearly payments, for and towards the maintenance and education of each of such grandchildren respectively, until they severally attain their ages, if a son or sons, of twenty-three years, if a daughter or daughters, the age of twenty-one years, or day or days of marriage, at which ages, or on marriage, I give to each such grandchild 300*l.* 3 per cent. consolidated, or 3 per cent. reduced, Bank annuities, for his, her, and their own use, and not to be deemed as vested before such periods.”

NOW

1839.

 DOR dem.
 DOLLEY
 against
 WARD.

now born or hereafter to be born, if a son or sons, under the age of twenty-three years, or, if a daughter or daughters, under the age of twenty-one years, without leaving any child or children them or any of them surviving, I give all my freehold and leasehold estates and other property, hereinbefore by me given, in trust or for the use and benefit of my said five children for their respective lives, with remainders over as before mentioned, unto and equally amongst all the children of my said sister *Ann Gwillim*, living at my decease, their respective heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, according to the nature and tenure thereof, as tenants in common."

The testator died, seised and possessed as aforesaid, 26th *March* 1821, and left, him surviving, his said daughter *Sarah Ward*, then aged forty years, and seven grandchildren, being the only children of the said *Sarah Ward*, the first six aged, respectively, seventeen, fifteen, thirteen, eleven, nine, and seven years, the youngest two months. *John Dolley*, the lessor of the plaintiff, was the testator's only son, and heir at law, and had, at the date of the will, and at the time of the testator's death, two daughters, both under the age of twenty-one, and no other children. *Sarah Ward* received the rents of the above-mentioned hereditaments and premises from the testator's decease till *February* 18th, 1830, when she died, leaving her said children, and no others, her surviving. From thence to the present time the houses in *Harp Court* and *Black Horse Court* have been claimed by them, and the rents received for their benefit.

The question stated in the case was, whether the lessor of the plaintiff was entitled to the whole or any part of the several freehold houses in *Harp Court* and *Black Horse Court*, or any share therein.

R r 3

The

1839.

DOE dem.
DOLLEY
against
WARD.

The case was argued in last *Michaelmas* term (a).

Sir *W. W. Follett*, for the plaintiff. First, the devise to *Sarah Ward*'s children was not confined to those living at the testator's death, but comprised all the children she might have during her lifetime; *Baldwin v. Karver* (b), *Leake v. Robinson* (c). [*Kelly*, for the defendants, conceded this point.] Then, secondly, by this devise, no estate vested in the children till they respectively attained the ages of twenty-one and twenty-three, and consequently the devise is void for remoteness, because some child of *Sarah Ward* might have taken under it more than twenty-one years after her death. There is not, in this case, any direct devise to the children, independently of their attaining the prescribed ages. The freehold and leasehold premises and shares are given to *Challis* and *Brogden*, in trust to pay *Sarah Ward* the rents and profits during her life, and from and after her decease the testator gives the premises and shares to such of her children as she now has or may have, if a son or sons, at his or their age of twenty-three years, and if a daughter or daughters, at her or their age of twenty-one years. His design in this may be illustrated by a subsequent clause in the will, where he gives his house in *Walbrook Place* to his grandson *William Ward*, on his attaining the age of twenty-three, and where it is clear from the context that the grandson's interest in the term is not to vest before. In some cases of this kind, where the devise has been, not to a class of persons, but to individuals by name, the Courts have held, in favour of the testator's inten-

(a) November 16th. Before Lord *Denman C. J.*, *Patteson*, *Williams*, and *Coleridge* Js.

(b) 1 *Cowp.* 309.

(c) 2 *Mer.* 363.

tion, that the individuals took a vested interest at the testator's death, subject to being divested, in the case of each individual, if he died before attaining the requisite age. But here the devise is to a class, and, if void as to any member of that class, must fail altogether. The case precisely resembles *Leake v. Robinson* (a), where the direction was that, on the decease of *W. R. R.* without issue living at the time of his death, the trustees should pay certain sums to the brothers and sisters of *W. R. R.*, share and share alike, upon his, her, or their attaining twenty-five; and it was held that the brothers and sisters (some of whom were born after the testator's death) constituted a class, and that the devise was void for remoteness. The reasoning of *Sir W. Grant M. R.* in that case applies to this. It cannot be said that the enjoyment, merely, is postponed till the attainment of the specified ages; the interest does not vest till then; for there is no gift to the devisees, antecedent to the clause pointing out the ages at which they are to take (b). The will directs that the rents of the premises shall be applied towards the maintenance and education of *Sarah Ward's* children until they attain

(a) 2 Mer. 363.

(b) *Sir W. W. Follett* read the following passage, from the judgment of the Master of the Rolls above mentioned, 2 Mer. 385. "It is not the enjoyment that is postponed; for there is no antecedent gift, as there was in the case of *May v. Wood*" (3 Bro. C. C. 471.), "of which the enjoyment could be postponed. The direction to pay is the gift, and that gift is only to attach to children that shall attain twenty-five. The case of *Batsford v. Kebbell*" (3 Ves. 363.) "was much more favourable for the legatee; for the interest of the fund was given to him absolutely until he should attain the age of thirty-two, at which time the executrix" (testatrix) "directed her executors to transfer to him the principal for his own use. He died under thirty-two." Lord Rosslyn said, "There is no gift but in the direction for payment, and the direction for payment attaches only upon a person of the age of thirty-two. Therefore he does not fall within the description."

R r 4.

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1839.

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DOR dem.
DOLLEY
against
WARD.

1839.

DOE dem.
DOLLEY
against
WARD.

the specified ages. It must be presumed that so much only would be applied to these purposes as the trustees thought fit; but no direction is given as to the surplus which may accrue; that, therefore, according to the reasoning in *Leake v. Robinson* (a), would not vest, but fall into the capital, and follow the ultimate destination of it, pursuant to the will. As to the particular words of devise, Sir *W. Grant* says, in *Leake v. Robinson* (b), "It was supposed that the clauses in the will, where the word *such* is left out, might be construed differently from those in which it is inserted; and that, although, where the payment is to be to *such* child or children as shall attain twenty-five, nothing could vest in any not answering that description, yet, where the payment is to be to children upon the attainment of twenty-five, or from and after their attaining twenty-five, the vesting is not postponed. If there were an antecedent gift, a direction to pay upon the attainment of twenty-five certainly would not postpone the vesting. But if I give to persons of any description *when* they attain twenty-five, or upon their attainment of twenty-five, or from and after their attaining twenty-five, is it not precisely the same thing as if I gave to *such* of those persons as should attain twenty-five? None but a person who can predicate of himself that he has attained twenty-five, can claim any thing under such a gift." [*Patteson J.* He is speaking there of a naked gift, without remainder over.] Sir *W. Grant* proceeds to comment on *Booth v. Booth* (c), and then adds: "Here, interest is not given to children dying before twenty-five." "How is it possible, therefore, that a child can be said to have a vested

(a) 2 *Mer.* 363.

(b) P. 385.

(c) 4 *Ves.* 399.

interest before twenty-five, when it has neither a right of enjoyment, a capacity of transmission, or a ground of claim, until after it shall have attained that age?" The same arguments apply here. Before the specified ages no one of *Sarah Ward's* children could have devised or brought ejectment. It is true that the will contains a devise over, "in case of the death of all my grandchildren, now born or hereafter to be born, if a son or sons, under the age of twenty-three years, or, if a daughter or daughters, under the age of twenty-one years, *without leaving any child or children them or any of them surviving*;" and it may be inferred from this that an interest was meant to vest in the sons and daughters before they attained twenty-three or twenty-one, which would be transmissible to their children if they had any. But this is inconsistent with the previous clause, which unquestionably gives the share of any son or daughter of *Sarah Ward*, dying before the specified age, to the survivors of such sons or daughters respectively. And in *Leake v. Robinson* (a) there were similar provisions of the will, inconsistent, as was contended, with a supposition that the testator conceived himself to have postponed the vesting: but Sir *W. Grant* allowed them no weight, "as none of these clauses make any new gift to the grandchildren, nor can they alter the terms or conditions of that which had been already made." That case, therefore, is an express authority for the present plaintiff; and it was there held that, if the bequest might be void for remoteness as to any one of the devisees, the Court could not pronounce it good as to the class. In *Bull v. Pritchard* (b) the testator bequeathed a residue to trustees who were to invest it in the funds, and pay the

1839.

DOE dem.
DOLLEY
against
WARD.

(a) 2 Mer. 363.

(b) 1 Russ. 213.

dividends

1839.

DOE dem.
DOLLEY
against
WARD.

dividends to his daughter during her life, and, from and after her decease, to pay and transfer the stock "unto and equally between and amongst all and every the child and children of my said daughter," "who shall live to attain the age of twenty-three years." This was held equivalent to a devise *upon* their attaining that age, rendering, therefore, the attainment of that age a condition precedent to the vesting of any interest in them; and the devise was considered too remote. That was a decision as to leasehold estates only, (which were comprehended in the residue), not leasehold and freehold intermixed, as here; but Lord *Gifford* M. R. does not found any distinction on that circumstance. And in that case, as here, there was a gift over if the children should all die under twenty-three, without issue. In *Vawdry v. Geddes* (a) the testatrix left the interest or produce of certain funds to her sisters during their lives, and directed the same, after their deaths, to be applied in the maintenance of their children respectively, or accumulate for such children's benefit, until they should attain twenty-two, when they should be entitled to their proportions of the principal. It was argued that the bequest gave each child, as it came into existence, a vested interest, subject to the contingency of being divested if such child died under twenty-two. But Sir *J. Leach* M. R. held the case undistinguishable from *Leake v. Robinson* (b). "In that case," he said, "Sir *William Grant* proceeds upon this principle, — that the prescribed time cannot be considered as marking only a time of postponed payment, because there is no antecedent gift — no gift but in the direction to pay at the particular period."

(a) 1 *Russ. & M.* 203.(b) 2 *Mer.* 363.

As to the cases which may be cited for the defendant. In *Doe dem. Hunt v. Moore* (a) lands were left to *J. M.* "when he attains the age of twenty-one years," but, in case he should die before attaining that age, then over; and the estate was held to vest on the testator's death, though subject to being divested if *J. M.* should die before attaining twenty-one. That, however, was not a question of remoteness, but only as to the right of the heir at law before the specified period. The devisee was a person in esse at the time of making the will, and would clearly have been entitled if he had lived till twenty-one; the only question was, whether the testator meant to die intestate as to the antecedent period. *Bromfield v. Crowder* (b) was a similar case. So in *Doe dem. Roake v. Nowell* (c) the question was, not on the validity of the devise, but on the time at which the estate vested. The case most adverse to the plaintiff is *Farmer v. Francis* (d). There the testator devised to trustees, in trust for his wife and daughter for their respective lives, and afterwards in trust for, and he devised to, the child or children of the daughter who should be living at the decease of the survivor of them the testator's said wife and daughter, to be divided share and share alike when and as they should respectively attain the age of twenty-four: and, the devise to the children being contested as too remote, it was held that they took equitable estates under it. But in that case the devise made a clear original gift to the children; the mention of particular ages only fixed the time of distribution. As was there contended at the bar, the

1839.

*Doe dem.
DOLLEY
against
WARD.*

(a) 14 *East*, 601.(b) 1 *New Rep.* 313.(c) 1 *M. & S.* 327.(d) 2 *Bing.* 151. *S. C.* 9 *B. Moore*, 310.

property,

1839.

DOE dem.
DOLLEY
against
WARD.

property, "having been given absolutely," "is to be divided; when and as they attain twenty-four. From *Boraston's Case* (a) to *Doe dem. Roake v. Nowell* (b), such a condition has been esteemed a condition subsequent." And, further, that was a devise of residue, and therefore to be construed adversely to the heir and favourably to the devisees: and there was no provision answering to the clause of survivorship among the children, which in the present case conclusively shews that the estates were not to vest before the specified ages.

Kelly, contra. There is no real distinction between cases where the question has been whether the devise was too remote, and those in which nothing but the time of vesting was in dispute. The question here is when the testator meant the property to vest; if before the specified ages, the devise is not too remote. This is an establishment for younger branches of the testator's family: and, looking to the provision made for the other members, it is not probable that he intended the property in question to go to his heir at law in the case which has occurred. Best C. J. says, in *Duffield v. Duffield* (c), "The rights of the different members of families not being ascertained whilst estates remain contingent, such families continue in an unsettled state, which is often productive of inconvenience, and sometimes of injury to them. If the parents attaining a certain age be a condition precedent to the vesting estates, by the death of their parents before they are of that age children lose estates which were intended for them, and which their relation to the testators may give them

(a) 3 Rep. 19 a.

(b) 1 M. & S. 327.

(c) 1 Dow & Clark. 311.

the strongest claim to. In consideration of these circumstances, the Judges, from the earliest times, were always inclined to decide that estates devised were vested; and it has long been an established rule for the guidance of the courts of Westminster, in construing devises, that all estates are to be holden to be vested, except estates in the devise of which a condition precedent to the vesting is so clearly expressed that the courts cannot treat them as vested without deciding in direct opposition to the terms of the will. If there be the least doubt, advantage is to be taken of the circumstances occasioning the doubt; and what seems to make a condition, is holden to have only the effect of postponing the right of possession." And on this principle of construction it was held, as early as the case of *Edwards v. Hammond* (a), that a surrender by a copyholder to the use of his son and son's heirs, "if he live to the age of twenty-one years; provided, and upon condition, that if he die before twenty-one" the land shall remain to the surrenderor, did not create a condition precedent. No real distinction arises from the estate being given to a class. In *Farmer v. Francis* (b) that circumstance was not attended to: the case turned upon the words used in the devise, which did not materially differ from those in question here; and the Court acted upon the rule of construction just cited.

Then, on the terms of this bequest, had the children of *Sarah Ward*, on the testator's death, a vested or a contingent interest? In *Boraston's Case* (c) the testator devised the upper part of close *R.* to *A.* for eight years,

1839.

DOX dem.
DOLLEY
against
WARD.

(a) 3 Lev. 132.

(b) 2 Bing. 151. S. C. 9 B. Moore, 310.

(c) 3 Rep. 19 a.

and

1839.

DOE dem.
DOLLEY
against
WARD.

and then to testator's executors, "until such time as *Hugh Boraston*" (his grandson) "shall accomplish his full age of twenty-one years, and the mean profits to be employed by my executors towards the performance of this my last will and testament: and *when the said Hugh shall come to his age of twenty-one years*, then I will he shall enjoy the said upper part to him and to his heirs for ever:" and it was held that the remainder vested in *Hugh*, though he never attained twenty-one; for that the words "when" and "then," when they refer to a thing which must of necessity happen (as death, or the expiration of a term), make no contingency. In that case the devise to the executors was not peculiarly for the benefit of the grandson, but for the general purposes of the will. In *Bromfield v. Crowder* (a), where the words were, "I give all my real estate" to J. D. B. "*if the said J. D. B. shall live to attain the age of twenty-one years*," even the word "if" was held not to make a condition precedent, being controlled by the context. The judgment of Sir *James Mansfield* in that case is, in all essential respects, applicable to this. The context in the will was relied upon there; and in this case there is nothing in the context to raise an inference that the testator did not mean *Sarah Ward's* children to take till they attained the specified ages. In the case of his grandchildren, where he intended that the legacies of stock bequeathed to them on their attaining certain ages should not vest before, he has stated that intention in express terms. In *Doe dem. Hunt v. Moore* (b) the words "*when he attains the age of twenty-one years*" were held not to make a condition precedent

(a) 1 *New Rep.* 313.(b) 14 *East*, 601.

the estate vesting. The case nearly resembles this; and whether or not the immediate question turned on remoteness can make no difference. In *Doe dem. Roake v. Nowell* (a) a devise to *J. R.*, and, on his decease, to and among his children, equally, at the age of twenty-one, and their heirs, as tenants in common, was held to give the children vested remainders. [*Patterson J. Randall v. Doe dem. Roake* (b) was a decision to the same effect on the same devise.] In *Warter v. Hutchinson* (c) lands were devised to trustees till *J. W.*, the testator's nephew, should attain twenty-one, and, if he should die in the mean time, then till *H. W.*, the testator's second nephew, should attain twenty-one, a trust to raise out of the rents and profits certain sums of money, out of which they were to pay the testator's debts, &c., legacies, and the charges of *J. W.*'s maintenance and education till he should attain twenty-one, and upon that event to pay *J. W.* the residue, if any, of the said rents and profits; with a similar disposition for the maintenance, &c., of *H. W.* in case *J. W.* should die before the prescribed age. There it was held that, on the testator's death, *J. W.*, not then of age, took a vested estate for life in the devised premises. No case at common law has been cited, in which a different rule of construction has prevailed.

As to cases in equity. In *Snow v. Poulden* (d) the words "The rest of my property to be invested in land, and given to my grandson" *T. F. S.*, he "not to be of age to receive this until he attains his twenty-fifth year," were held to give an immediate vested interest.

1839.

Doe dem.
DOLLEY
against
WARD.

(a) 1 M. & S. 327.

(b) 5 Dow, 202.

(c) 1 B. & C. 721. See *Warter v. Hutchinson*, 2 Brod. & B. 349.

(d) 1 Keen, 186.

1889.

DOZ dem.
DOLLEY
against
WARD.

In *Bland v. Williams* (a) the testator devised a residue to trustees, upon trust to receive the rents and proceeds, and apply them, or *a sufficient part thereof*, to the maintenance and education of the child or children of the testator's daughter, until they should respectively attain the age of twenty-four; and, *when and as they should respectively attain* that age, then to pay, assign, &c., all the residue, with such proceeds as should not have been applied for and towards their maintenance and education, "equally unto and amongst all her said children, *when, and as they shall severally and respectively attain their said age.*" And, in case any or either of the children should die before attaining that age, and without leaving lawful issue of his or her body, the trustees were to pay, assign, &c., all the residue to such of the said children as should attain twenty-four, share and share alike, if more than one, and, if but one, then the whole to that one: remainder over, if all should die under the age and without leaving lawful issue as aforesaid. There Sir *J. Leach* M. R. said that the gift over was not simply upon the death under twenty-four, but upon the death under twenty-four without leaving issue: and therefore that the devise was, in effect, of "a vested interest with an executory devise over, in case of death under twenty-four, without leaving issue." And he observed that all the cases on the subject, except *Bull v. Pritchard* (b), were reconcileable with the distinction which he then took. Here, the devise over to the children of the testator's sister is to take effect if all the grandchildren die "without leaving any child or children them or any of them surviving." *Bland v.*

(a) 3 *Mylne* & K. 411.(b) 1 *Russ.* 213.

Williams (a) closely resembles the present case. There, as in this instance, the devise was to a class. And the argument from the appropriation of profits for the benefit of the children before the prescribed age is stronger here than in that case, because here the whole mesne profits (after necessary deductions) are to be so applied: there a discretion was given to the trustees. *Murray v. Addenbrook* (b) is a case not distinguishable from the present. There the bequest was of annuities, after the death of the testator's wife, to the eldest surviving son of Sir J. M., upon his coming to the age of twenty-five; the interest in the mean time (after the wife's demise) to be applied to the use of such eldest son, as might seem most proper to the trustees nominated in the will. Lord *Lyndhurst* C. held that the gift vested in the eldest son before twenty-five; laying stress on the circumstance of the whole interest being appropriated to the use of such eldest son (though under the direction of trustees) from the death of the widow. In *Phipps v. Williams* (c) there were two devises to trustees, one in trust to convey lands to G. H. A., *when and so soon as* he should attain twenty-one, remainder over if he should die before twenty-one without leaving issue &c.; the other in trust to convey lands to J. C. when he should attain twenty-four, upon his giving certain security and executing certain deeds. The first devise was held to give an immediate vested remainder to G. H. A.; the second was held not to give such remainder to J. C., because, as Sir L. *Shadwell* V. C. said, "the mere attainment of the age is not the only thing by which the testator marks the time at which it shall be de-

1839.

—
 DOZ dem.
 DOLLEY
 against
 WARD.

(a) 3 *Mylne & Keen*, 411.(b) 4 *Russ.* 407.(c) 5 *Sim.* 44.

1839.

DOX dem.
DOLLEY
against
WARD.

terminated whether the estate shall vest, or finally become not liable to be divested; but there is a preliminary act to be done, without the doing of which *J. A.* never would be entitled to call for the conveyance of the legal estate." "That is, in my opinion, clearly a condition precedent." The case, in this respect, resembled *Duffield v. Duffield* (a), where the devise was to the testator's grandson on his attaining the age of twenty-one and changing his name, and it was held that the vesting of the estates was subject to a condition precedent. It is to be observed, however, that on the second point in *Phipps v. Williams* (b) a contrary opinion to that of Sir *L. Shadwell* was afterwards expressed by Lord *Brougham C.* in the House of Lords in *Ackers v. Phipps* (c). *Vawdry v. Geddes* (d) is distinguishable from this case, because the will there contained no direct bequest to the sisters' children, but only stated that, on attaining the requisite age, they should "*be entitled to their proportion of their mother's share*" &c., and the clause as to the issue of the children was expressed in the same manner: and hence the Master of the Rolls observed (adopting the principle formerly acted upon by Sir *W. Grant*) that the prescribed age could not be considered as marking only a time of postponed payment, because there was "no antecedent gift—no gift but in the direction to pay at the particular period." Here the words, "I give" &c. "unto such of her children as she now has or may have" are a distinct gift, antecedent to the direction as to the period of vesting. So in *Leake v. Robinson* (e) Sir *W. Grant* re-

(a) 3 *Bligh*, N. S. 260.(b) 5 *Sim.* 44.(c) 3 *Clark & Finelly*, 665.; see p. 700.(d) 1 *Russ. & M.* 203.(e) 2 *Mer.* 363.

marked that there was no direct gift; it was only from the directions laid down for the trustees that the intended benefits could be ascertained. *Bull v. Pritchard* (a), if in point, is the unsupported decision of one learned Judge, and does not appear to have been satisfactory to the profession; *Leake v. Robinson* (b) and *Farmer v. Francis* (c) were the only material authorities cited in argument: the decision related only to personality; and legacies of personality have been held subject to different rules of construction from devises of realty, as to the period of vesting; *Doe dem. Hunt v. Moore* (d). And the bequest in *Bull v. Pritchard* (a) was not in the form of a direct gift, but of an instruction to the trustees. In the present case, if the argument for the plaintiff be correct, no provision is made for the issue of any grandchild dying before twenty-one or twenty-three, and no effect is given to the words "without leaving any child or children them or any of them surviving," though, according to some decisions, less cogent expressions are sufficient to give an estate tail by implication. But it is enough here to rely upon the language of the principal clause, as vesting an immediate interest by direct words of gift. Those words must prevail, unless the Court see something actually repugnant to them in other parts of the will. All the grandchildren now claiming were born at the time of the testator's death.

Sir *W. W. Follett*, in reply. The question is, not what the testator intended, but what effect is produced by the words he has employed. The estates are left not to the children of *Sarah Ward* generally, but to "*such of*

1839.

DOE dem.
DOLLEY
against
WARD.

(a) 1 Russ. 213.

(b) 2 Mer. 363.

(c) 2 Bing. 151. S. C. 9 B. Moore, 310.

(d) 14 East, 601.

1839.

DOX dem.
DOLLEY
against
WARD.

her children as she now has or may have, if a son or sons, at his or their age or ages of twenty-three years, and, if a daughter or daughters, at her or their age or ages of twenty-one years." And in a subsequent clause it is directed that the profits and interest of the premises and shares shall, after necessary outgoings, "be applied for and towards the maintenance of the children of my said daughter *Sarah*, or of my said son and two other daughters' children, *until they become respectively interested as before mentioned.*" Under such a devise, can it be said that the grandchildren took such a vested interest as entitled them to dispose of the devised estates immediately on the death of *Sarah Ward*? In all cases like the present this has been the real question. It was so in *Duffield v. Duffield* (a), as to the point referred to on the other side: and there *Best C. J.*, in delivering the opinion of the Judges, said (b): "Whilst estates remain contingent, those in whom they are at a future time to be vested, have no interest in the estates, or the rents and profits of such estates. Such estates must descend to the heir, if they are not given to any person to hold until the events happen on which they are to become vested." And he mentions, as a case in which inconvenience results from this omission, "If the parents attaining a certain age, be a condition precedent to the vesting estates by the death of their parents." In *Boraston's Case* (c) (which, it may be observed, was the case of a gift without remainder over) the question discussed was, when the estate of the devisee *Hugh Boraston* commenced in possession, and whether the form of devise postponed such vesting in possession till he attained the age of twenty-one. In *Edwards v. Ham-*

(a) 3 *Bügh*, N. S. 260.

(b) P. 330.

(c) 3 *Rep.* 19 a.

mond (a) the question was whether the devisee, before attaining his age of twenty-one, might bring ejectment. Could the children of *Sarah Ward* have brought ejectment immediately on her death? The right of present possession was claimed for the devisees in *Doe dem. Hunt v. Moore* (b), *Doe dem. Roake v. Nowell* (c), and *Randoll v. Doe dem. Roake* (d). And neither in those cases, nor in *Bromfield v. Crowder* (e), or *Farmer v. Francis* (g), was there any clause answering to the clause of survivorship (already commented on in this case) among *Sarah Ward's* children, or any direction as to the application of mesne profits, by which a control over the estates was given to trustees between the alleged vesting of the interest and the attainment of the prescribed age. Here, as was argued in *Farmer v. Francis* (g), "the devise" "being to a class of persons, it is clear that the division proposed by the devisor could not be made, nor his intention carried into effect, till time should have shewn how many of that class would attain" the prescribed ages.

These observations on the cases at common law may also be applied to the cases in Chancery, as *Snow v. Poulden* (h). It was expressly held in *Pulsford v. Hunter* (i) that a bequest for the maintenance of children did not vest the legacy in them. Here, whatever might be the interest of the trustees, the grandchildren clearly had no right, vested in possession, to those proceeds which the trustees were to apply for their benefit. *Murray v. Addenbrook* (k) was decided

1839.

DOE dem.
DOLLEY
against
WARD.

(a) 3 *Lev.* 132.(b) 14 *East*, 601.(c) 1 *M. & S.* 327.(d) 5 *Dow*, 202.(e) 1 *New Rep.* 313.(g) 2 *Bing.* 151. *S. C.* 9 *B. Moore*, 310.(h) 1 *Keen*, 186.(i) 3 *Bro. Ca. Cha.* 416.(k) 4 *Russ.* 407.

1839.

DOX dem.
DOLLEY
against
WARD.

with reference to the intention of the testator as evinced by the particular provisions and language of the will. The decision in *Bland v. Williams* (a) turned upon the words, “*without leaving lawful issue*,” in the clause containing the gift. Those words controuled the other parts of the bequest: had they been wanting it seems that the Master of the Rolls would not have held the interest to be vested. [*Patteson J.* He says that the distinction on the words “without leaving issue” is the key to all the cases except *Bull v. Pritchard* (b).] The effect of the words “without lawful issue” was not brought to the notice of Lord *Gifford* in that case. In *Phipps v. Williams* (c) the gift (in the case of *George Holland Ackers*) was, “when, and so soon as he, my said godson, shall attain his age of twenty-one years;” but, in case he should die before attaining that age, “*without leaving issue of his body*,” &c., then over; and there the interest was held to be vested immediately, and the party entitled to the rents and profits. The words of gift in the present devise contain no such clause; the subsequent devise over, if the grandchildren all die without leaving any child or children them surviving, would be important if it were not for the clause of survivorship among the grandchildren, by which the share of any one dying is given to the rest; without any reservation in the case of issue being left. While such a clause could operate there could be no vested interest.

Cur. adv. vult.

Lord DENMAN C. J., in this term (*January 15th*), delivered judgment. After reading the words of devise set

(a) 3 *Mylne & Keen*, 411.

(b) 1 *Russ.* 213.

(c) 5 *Sim.* 44.

out, ante, pp. 582, 583., from "I give to the said *Thomas Challis* and *John Brogden*," &c., to the end of the clause giving survivorship in case of the death of any child or children of *Sarah Ward*, if a son, under twenty-three, and, if a daughter, under twenty-one, his Lordship stated that the question on this devise was, whether the vesting of these estates was not postponed till the devisees should attain twenty-three, in which case the devise was too remote, and the lessor of the plaintiff would be entitled to recover as heir at law. His Lordship then proceeded as follows.

The defendants relied on the doctrine of *Boraston's Case* (a), which has been recognised in so many others, among which it is not improper to specify *Edwards v. Hammond* (b), *Doe dem. Hunt v. Moore* (c), *Bromfield v. Crowder* (d), affirmed in the House of Lords, and *Farmer v. Francis* (e). The plaintiff mainly relied on *Leake v. Robinson* (g), *Bull v. Pritchard* (h), and *Vawdry v. Geddes* (i). But *Leake v. Robinson* (g) was decided by Sir *W. Grant*, and *Vawdry v. Geddes* (i) by Sir *J. Leach*, on the peculiarity that those devises contained no direct gift to the class intended to be benefited, but only a direction to trustees to pay after the happening of the event. *Leake v. Robinson* (g) indeed admits of another distinction; for the class is there described under the appellation of such of the children as shall attain twenty-five; and similar language in both respects is employed in *Bull v. Pritchard* (h), which was decided in the early time of Lord *Gifford* as Master of the Rolls, and is said to have failed to give satisfaction. If that is so, no more striking

1839.

DOE dem.
DOLLEY
against
WARD.

(a) 3 Rep. 19 a.

(c) 14 East, 601.

(e) 2 Bing. 151. S. C. 9 B. Moore, 310.

(h) 1 Russ. 213.

(b) 3 Lev. 132.

(d) 1 New Rep. 313.

(g) 2 Mer. 363.

(i) 1 Russ. & M. 203.

1839.

**Doe dem.
DOLLEY
against
WARD.**

proof can be given how strong is the disposition to control the sense of words by which conditions precedent to the vesting of estates would seem to be indisputably created. For, if a devise to such as may attain twenty-five, or to the children of *A.* who shall attain twenty-four, will vest an interest in those who never attain the age described, the description given by the testator of the objects of his bounty is actually varied by the Court. Perhaps even this went no farther than the application of the same principle to the case of a devise "if" he shall attain twenty-four (*a*), which was undoubtedly a large step beyond a devise *when* he shall attain twenty-four. If the cases ran upon any nice construction of the will, we might be required to state our reasons for thinking, that "at the age" no more created a condition precedent than the phrases employed in former cases. But we are relieved from the necessity of doing so by an express decision on this very point in *Doe dem. Roake v. Nowell* (*b*), and *Randoll v. Doe dem. Roake* (*c*), in the House of Lords, which arose upon the same will. An attempt was made to distinguish those cases from the present, because in them, the devise being to the children at their age of *twenty-one*, no question of invalidity on the ground of remoteness arose. But the time when, under such a devise, the estate is vested is wholly beside the question of remoteness: neither does the express devise over to the other children, in the event of one dying under twenty-three, which was wanting in *Doe dem. Roake v. Nowell* (*b*), make such a distinction as to escape from the authority of that case.

(a) See *Bronfield v. Crowder*, 1 *New Rep.* 313.

(b) 1 *M. & S.* 827.

(c) 5 *Dow.* 202.

A further

A further distinction was attempted to be made between a devise to an individual and to a *class*, but we do not think that distinction tenable in the absence of authority; and, even if it were, the case of *Doe dem. Roake v. Nowell* (a) is an answer; for that was the case of a class. Upon the whole, we are of opinion that the children took vested estates in remainder immediately on the death of the testator, and that the plaintiff is not entitled to recover.

1839.

DOE dem.
DOLLEY
against
WARD.

Judgment for defendants (b).

(a) 1 M. & S. 327.

(b) See *Doe dem. Cadogan v. Ewart*, 7 A. & E. 636.

M'CARTHY *against* COLVIN and Others.

ASSUMPSIT for money had and received. Pleas:

1. Non assumpsit. 2. As to 419*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.*, parcel &c., that true it is that defendants received that sum for the use of plaintiff, to wit *December* 20th, 1832; but defendants say that the same was so then received by them for the use of plaintiff for the sole and specific purpose of the same being remitted by defendants for and on account of plaintiff, who then was in parts be-

Plaintiff, by letter, desired his agent to receive a sum of money for him, and, after making certain payments, transmit the surplus through the house of defendants, a mercantile firm in *London*, to be placed to the

plaintiff's credit at *Calcutta*. The agent paid in the surplus, 419*l.*, at defendants' house, showing them plaintiff's letter. Defendants received the sum on plaintiff's account, entered it in their books to the account of C. and Co., their correspondents at *Calcutta*, and wrote to C. and Co., informing them that they had so done, and desiring that C. and Co. would account with plaintiff, at the rate of so much per rupee. Defendants charged one per cent. commission. Before the letter from defendants arrived at *Calcutta*, C. and Co. stopped payment. Defendants, after placing the 419*l.* to account, paid bills drawn on them by C. and Co., to a much larger amount; but it did not appear whether or not the general balance between the two houses was altered by such payments:

On assumpsit brought against the defendants for money had and received, and pleas, as to the 419*l.*, that defendants had remitted it as desired,

Held, that defendants were not liable, having done all that plaintiff required of them, and they contracted to do, for the purpose of remitting the 419*l.*; and having bound themselves to credit C. and Co. in that amount, if that house did not reject the transaction.

yond

1859.

—
M'CARTHY
against
COLVIN.

yond the seas, viz. at *Calcutta*, &c., to certain persons then carrying on business as merchants and *East India* agents at *Calcutta* aforesaid, under the name, &c., of *Colvin* and Co., for reasonable commission and reward to defendants in that behalf, to be deducted from the last-mentioned sum : and that, within a reasonable time after the receipt of that sum by defendants as aforesaid, viz. *January* 8th, 1853, the said sum (a reasonable commission to defendants, viz. &c., being first deducted) was remitted by defendants for and on account of plaintiff to the said persons so then carrying on business at *Calcutta*, under the name, &c., according to the purposes for which defendants so received the same as aforesaid. Verification.

Replication to the second plea. That the said sum was not remitted by defendants for and on account of plaintiff to the said persons so then carrying on business &c., in manner and form &c. Issue thereon.

On the trial before Lord *Denman* C. J., at the sittings in *London* after *Trinity* term 1856, the following facts appeared. The defendants were merchants in *London*, corresponding with a firm of *Colvin* and Co. in *Calcutta* (a). The plaintiff, being in *Calcutta*, wrote to Mr. *Casterton*, a solicitor in *London*, as follows.

“ *Calcutta*, *May* 9th, 1852.

“ I have this day drawn upon you in favour of Messrs. *Colvin* and Co. for the sum of 300*l.* at sixty days' sight ; you will therefore take the necessary steps to sell out my stock in the Bank, and, after duly honouring the above draft, and deducting all incidental expenses, I will thank you to transmit the surplus through the house

(a) It did not appear that there was any partnership between this firm and that of the defendants, or between any of their members respectively.

of

of Messrs. *Colvin, Bazett, and Co.*" (the defendants),
 "to be placed to my credit here."

Casterton sold the stock, and, after making the above deductions, paid the residue (419*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.*) to the defendants, *Colvin, Bazett and Co.*, at the same time communicating to them the plaintiff's letter; and the defendants gave *Casterton* the following receipt. "London, 20th December 1832. Received of *W. Casterton, Esq.*, the sum of 419*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.*, on account of *W. G. M'Carthy, Esq.*, of *Calcutta. Bazett, Colvin, Crawford, and Co.*" The defendants placed the sum to the account of *Colvin and Co.*, in their books; and within a reasonable time, namely, on January 8th, 1833 (*a*), they wrote to *Colvin and Co.* at *Calcutta*, as follows.

1839.

—
 M'CARTHY
 against
 COLVIN.

"8th January 1833.

"No. 266. enclosed Mr. *M'Carthy's* bill on Mr. *Casterton* for 300*l.*, which is accepted and passed to your account; and this gentleman has paid us the balance of his account with Mr. *M'Carthy*, which we enclose, and place the money, as you desire, to credit of your account: viz.

Balance received 20th ulto.	-	-	£419	18	9
Less our commission, 1 per cent.	£4	4	}		
Receipt stamp	-	-	0	5	0
					4 9 0
					£415 9 9

which you will account to Mr. *M'Carthy* for at 1*s.* 10*d.* a rupee."

After giving credit as above stated, the defendants accepted and paid bills drawn on them by *Colvin and*

(*a*) Some question was made at the trial, whether or not the notice was in reasonable time; but it was ultimately agreed that earlier notice could not have been given under the circumstances.

1839.

M'CARTHY
against
COLVIN.

Co. at *Calcutta*, to the amount of several thousand pounds. On *May 2d*, 1833, and before the defendants' letter arrived, *Colvin* and Co. of *Calcutta* stopped payment, and declared themselves insolvent. They were at that time, and had been for six months before, debtors to the defendants in an amount exceeding 5000*l*.

The question at the trial was, whether, under these circumstances, the plaintiff ought to lose, or the defendants to account for, the 419*l*. 18*s*. 9*d*. The plaintiff contended that the defendants, on receiving that sum, should have made an actual remittance, and that, if they chose to transact the business in a different manner, the risk remained with them. The defendants insisted that their responsibility ceased when they had entered the 419*l*. 18*s*. 9*d*. to the credit of *Colvin* and Co. of *Calcutta*, and given that firm notice of their having done so. The Lord Chief Justice reserved the point; and the plaintiff was nonsuited, with leave to move to enter a verdict for 419*l*. 18*s*. 9*d*.

Sir *F. Pollock*, in the ensuing term, moved according to the leave reserved, and the Court granted a rule nisi. *Buller v. Harrison* (a) was cited. In *Hilary* term, 1838 (b),

Sir *J. Campbell*, Attorney-General, and *Bazett*, shewed cause. The issue raised by the pleadings was, whether or not the 419*l*. 18*s*. 9*d*. (after the proper deductions) was remitted by the defendants to *Colvin* and Co. at *Calcutta* for and on account of the plaintiff. The defendants were to prove that it was; but it was not necessary

(a) 2 *Cowp.* 565.

(b) *January 27th*. Before Lord Denman C. J., *Littledale*, *Williams*, and *Coleridge* J.

to shew that a sum in specie, or a bill to the exact amount, was sent: that was not what the plaintiff required. It is enough if a remittance was made according to the usual practice. He had desired that the sum should be transmitted through the house of *Colvin, Bazett, and Co.*, to be placed to *his credit* at *Calcutta* in the usual course. *Casterton* paid in the 419*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.* at *Colvin, Bazett, and Co.'s*; and they placed the proper amount to the credit of *Colvin and Co.* at *Calcutta*, for the plaintiff, giving timely notice to that firm. All, therefore, that the plaintiff desired had been done. And, after the credit had been given, the defendants accepted and paid bills drawn by *Colvin and Co.* to an amount far exceeding that of the credit. These facts would have supported a plea of payment. Had the relative situation of the defendants and *Colvin and Co.* remained unaltered after the giving of credit, there might have been reason to contend, as in *Buller v. Harrison (a)*, that nothing had taken place equivalent to a payment over, and that the defendants were compellable to refund. The decision there proceeded expressly on the ground that, between the defendant and his principals, there had been "no new credit, no acceptance of new bills, no fresh goods bought or money advanced," and "in short, no alteration in the situation which" they previously stood in towards each other. That is not so here. In *Cox v. Prentice (b)* the defendant, as agent, had sold the plaintiffs a bar of silver, which was ultimately found deficient in weight. The plaintiffs claimed a return of the price, tendering back the silver; but the defendant refused to give back the money,

1839.

M'CARTHY
against
COLVIN.

(a) 2 Cowp. 565.

(b) 9 M. & S. 344.

saying

1839.

McCARTHY
against
COLVIN.

saying that he had forwarded his account to his correspondent, and credited him therein for the full sum; and, in a special action of assumpsit, this Court held the defence insufficient. Lord *Ellenborough* said, "I take it to be clear, that an agent who receives money for his principal is liable as a principal so long as he stands in his original situation; and until there has been a change of circumstances by his having paid over the money to his principal, or done something equivalent to it." And the test of liability recognised by all the Court was, whether or not things remained in the same state as before the money was placed to account. It was not just, here, that the defendants should run the risk of the *Calcutta* house stopping before it received notice of the placing to account; for the credit was available against the defendants from the moment when it was given; and they would have been liable to an action at any time afterwards, if they had refused to pay a draft of the *Calcutta* house to an amount covered by the 41*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.* The commission of one per cent. would not be a remuneration for the risk which the plaintiff now seeks to cast upon them.

Sir *F. Pollock* (with whom was *C. C. Jones*), contra. *Buller v. Harrison* (a) and *Cox v. Prentice* (b) shew that, if the agent has not paid over the money to his principal, or done that which is equivalent, it may be recovered back; but those cases do not determine what is, in every instance, equivalent to a payment over. The act of the defendants in this case was not so. The placing to account is a payment, when followed by a

(a) 2 *Cowp.* 565.(b) 3 *M. & S.* 344.

change of circumstances, provided that change has reference to the particular transaction, not otherwise. Here it was impossible that the *Calcutta* house could have drawn on the defendants with reference to this particular credit; for they did not know that the sum had been placed to account. The plaintiff, then, is entitled to regard the transaction as if it had been the only one between the two houses; and in that case it is quite clear that the credit could not have been acted upon by the *Calcutta* house, and that the defendants would not be entitled to retain the plaintiff's money. If a man deposited money with a *London* house, for which they, at his desire, gave him a letter of credit on their correspondents at *Liverpool*, and the depositor, on arriving there, found that the *Liverpool* house had failed; could the *London* firm retain his deposit in reduction of their claims upon the house at *Liverpool*? It is said that the defendants would not run the risk of loss in case of their correspondents proving insolvent, for a commission of one per cent. only. But, if the commission is too small for that risk, it is too large for the mere trouble of receiving a sum of money and writing a letter. The acknowledgment given by the defendants is, in effect, that they have received a sum to be transmitted to the *Calcutta* house on the plaintiff's account; that is, for a purpose which cannot be carried into effect, the house becoming insolvent. If the *Calcutta* house had failed the day before the defendants received the money, it is clear that the latter must have refunded the amount; but it makes no difference in principle, whether the failure happened before the payment was made, or before it could be rendered effectual by the letter of advice reaching a solvent house. It appeared in.

1839.

M'GARTHY
against
COLVIN.

1839.

—
M'CARTHY
against
COLVIN.

in evidence that the defendants, after giving the credit, accepted and paid bills drawn by *Colvin* and Co. to the amount of several thousand pounds; but it was not shewn what remittances they received from *Colvin* and Co. during the same period, nor whether the balance between the two houses was altered by those acceptances and payments. It is said that the defendants, after giving the credit, would have been bound immediately to answer any draft of *Colvin* and Co. to the amount of 419*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.*; but the defendants could not have been so bound, with reference to this sum, before they knew that their letter of advice had been received: and the *Calcutta* house, on receiving it, might, if they chose, have rejected the transaction. The defendant's letter instructed them to account with the plaintiff at the rate of so much a rupee. They might have thought the rate excessive. Until, therefore, they had signified their adoption, the transaction was not complete. was as if goods had been sent out, with a direction to give credit at the invoice price: the consignees would not have been obliged to do so if the market had fallen in the mean time. The instruction to give the plaintiff credit at a particular rate shews that *Colvin* and Co. were treated, not as his agents, but as those of the defendants; to agents of the plaintiff the instruction would have been to give credit at the usual rate. The facts of the case would not support a plea of payment, nor do they bear out a plea of remittance made. [*Littledale J.* Could the plaintiff have countermanded the direction after the defendants had given notice to *Colvin* and Co. ?] They could, if the countermand had been complete before the fund had been drawn upon.

Cur. adv. vult.

Lord

Lord DENMAN C. J. in this term (*January 22d*) delivered the judgment of the Court.

This was a motion to set aside a nonsuit which had passed on the trial before me under the following circumstances. The plaintiff in *Calcutta* had by letter, dated in *May 1832*, directed his agent *Casterton* to sell out stock standing in his name in the *English* funds, and, after making certain payments, "to transmit the surplus through the house of Messrs. *Colvin, Bazett, and Co.*" (the defendants), to be placed to his "credit *there*" (at *Calcutta*). *Casterton* accordingly, having made the sale and the payments, carried 419*l.*, the surplus, to the defendants, and shewed them his letter of instructions, and immediately placed it in their books. They received the money to the credit of their correspondents at *Calcutta*, and gave a receipt for the money on the 20th *December 1832*, as for so much received on account of the plaintiff. On the 8th *January 1833*, being the earliest opportunity, the defendants wrote to their correspondents at *Calcutta* a letter containing as follows. Mr. *Casterton* "has paid us the balance of his account with Mr. *M^cCarthy*, which we enclose, and place the money, as you desire, to the credit of your account," 419*l.*, less commission, &c., "which you will account to Mr. *M^cCarthy* for at " so much, specifying the rate per sicca-rupee, being the current rate of the day. After this date the defendants accepted and paid bills drawn by the *Calcutta* house on them to an amount far exceeding the sum in question. Before the letter of the defendants reached *Calcutta* the house there had stopped payment. This was the amount of the proof on the trial. The plea stated a receipt of the money for the sole purpose of being remitted for and on the

1839.

M^cCARTHY
against
COLVIN.

1839.

MCARTHY
against
COLVIN.

account of the plaintiff, who was then at *Calcutta*, to certain persons then trading there under the firm of (describing the *Calcutta* firm), for commission to be paid to the defendants within a reasonable time; and then averred that the money was so remitted. The replication traversed only the remittal modo et formâ.

The plaintiff, therefore, admits that the defendants received the money, charged only with the duty of remitting it to their *Calcutta* correspondents; and the question is, whether the passing the sum to their credit in account, coupled with the subsequent acceptance and payment of bills drawn by that house, amounts to a remitting of the money to them. On the part of the defendants the decisions in *Buller v. Harrison* (a) and *Cox v. Prentice* (b) were not questioned; but they relied upon the presence of the very circumstances, as they said, in this case, on the absence of which in those the decisions had proceeded. In the former, Lord *Mansfield* said, "In this case, there was no new credit, no acceptance of new bills, no fresh goods bought or money advanced. In short, no alteration in the situation which the defendant and his principals stood in towards each other on the 20th of *April*." The plaintiff's counsel admitted the inference to be drawn from this remark of Lord *Mansfield*; but they met the effect by alleging that here also was no change of situation between the two houses after the 20th *December*, because, on the one hand, the *Calcutta* house, not knowing of the fact of this payment, could not be taken to have drawn upon the *London* house on the credit of it; and, on the other, although new acceptances were given and paid by the *London* house, yet, as their receipts were not

(a) 2 Cowp. 565.

(b) 3 M. & S. 344.

shewn subsequently to the 20th *December*, it did not appear that any change in the turn of *the* balance between the houses had arisen.

We do not think these answers satisfactory. The question is, whether the defendants have done all which, looking at all the circumstances of the case, was, within the contemplation of both parties, cast upon them. The plaintiff desires nothing to be done out of the usual course, not a transmission of money or a bill specifically appropriated to himself. We cannot but take notice that either of these methods, or any similar one, would have been very unusual in a case like the present: and it lay upon the plaintiff specifically to have stated it if he wished it to be pursued; and that, if for no other reason, because the defendants were entitled to the exercise of an option, whether they would undertake such an agency or not. The plaintiff, however, merely requests that the surplus may be transmitted through the defendants' house, to be placed to his credit at *Calcutta*. The fair import of this direction, from which the contract between the parties must be collected, is, that the defendants on their part should take all means in the usual course towards giving the plaintiff credit at *Calcutta* for the sum mentioned. This they appear to have done, when they placed it in their books to the credit of their correspondents at *Calcutta*, and sent them a letter of advice to that effect. And from that moment their condition was altered; for, if the *Calcutta* house, being solvent, should not repudiate the letter, the defendants would be bound by it, and in the meantime they had made themselves liable to be bound according to an election to be exercised in *Calcutta*, over which they had no control.

1839.

M^CCARTHY
against
COLVIN.

1839.

M^cCARTHY
against
COLVIN.

The fact of acceptances subsequently given and paid is material under the circumstance of insolvency which has since occurred at *Calcutta*; for, if nothing of that kind had been done, and the insolvency had supervened, which might be said to determine the power of the *Calcutta* house to accept the letter of credit, it might then perhaps have been contended that all the defendants had done had become merely nugatory, and the plaintiff's money, still remaining in their hands, must have been accounted for by them. As a ground, however, for construing the contract between the parties, or determining the duties cast on the defendants, the insolvency is quite immaterial: for it was clearly in the contemplation of neither at the time; and there is nothing from which it can be inferred that the defendants were to insure the plaintiff against the insolvency of their correspondents, or any house at *Calcutta* with whom they might have given him credit.

We decide the case, however, on the broad ground that the defendants have done all they were intended, or contracted, to do; and this rule, therefore, will be discharged.

Rule discharged.

1839.

The QUEEN *against* READ.Saturday,
January 19th.

AT the quarter sessions for the town and borough of *Ipswich*, July 1837, the justices made an order for the maintenance, by *William Read*, of a bastard child lately born of *Maria Hare*, "and which had then lately become chargeable to the parish of *St. Clement*," in the *Ipswich* Union. It recited an application to the sessions by the guardians of the union, they having first given notice of such application to *Read* under their common seal, and under the hands of a majority of the meeting of the said guardians. The order then proceeded: "Upon due examination of the cause and circumstances of the premises, as well upon the oath of the said *Maria Hare* as upon evidence in corroboration thereof, in the presence of the said *William Read*, it is adjudged" &c.: and it then directed certain payments to be made by *Read* to the guardians.

An order for maintenance of a bastard under stat. 4 & 5 W. 4. c. 76. s. 72. is bad, if it allege that the sessions heard evidence in corroboration of the mother's statement, without adding that the corroboration was in some material particular.

The order was brought before this Court by certiorari, and a rule nisi obtained for quashing it on several objections. Among these were: That the officers of the parish, not the guardians of the union, should have given the notice: That payment should have been ordered to the parish officers, not the guardians: That the words of the order did not sufficiently shew that the child was chargeable to *St. Clement's* (in answer to which objection *Reg. v. Lewis (a)* was cited): And that the order did not shew how the mother's evidence was corroborated.

(a) 8 A. & E. 881.

1839.

The QUEEN
against
KEAD.

O'Malley now shewed cause, and argued the several points above stated : but, judgment having been given on the last only, the argument on the others is omitted. It is suggested that the present order is defective, because stat. 4 & 5 W. 4. c. 76. s. 72. requires that "no such order shall be made unless the evidence of the mother of such bastard child shall be corroborated in some material particular by other testimony to the satisfaction" of the sessions, and this order does not shew how *Maria Hare's* evidence was corroborated. But the rule is, as to orders of justices, that, although the whole case may not appear upon the order, the Court will intend every thing to be right if the order does not shew the contrary; *Rex v. The Undertakers of the Aire and Calder Navigation* (a); *Rex v. Cornish* (b). A more strict construction was adopted in *Rex v. Heath* (c); but that was upon an order of sessions embodying a case for the opinion of this Court. Here it is said that evidence was given in corroboration; and no evidence would have that effect unless bearing on some material particular. [*Coleridge J.* Do you contend that the words of the statute "in some material particular" are idle? Suppose evidence had been offered, impugning the character of the mother; would evidence in answer to that come within the meaning of this clause? Must not the corroboration refer to some "material particular" of her story?] The Court will not presume that the evidence was of the nature suggested. [*Lord Denman C. J.* It is very important that clerks of the peace should follow the words given by statute: and it would

(a) 2 T. R. 660. See judgment of *Buller J.*, p. 666.

(b) 2 B. & Ad. 498. See judgment of *Taunton J.* Also, *Regina v. Toke*, 9 A. & E. 233, 4.

(c) 5 A. & E. 343.

have been very easy here to add the proper words.] The want of them ought not to defeat the order. [Lord Denman C. J. Not if we could see that the terms used were equivalent to those required. *Williams J.* The facts giving the sessions jurisdiction ought to appear.] In *Rex v. The Undertakers of the Aire and Calder Navigation (a)* this Court presumed that the rate had been published in church, though the order did not state it. [Lord Denman C. J. That was a preliminary proceeding; and the Court presumed that every such proceeding had been rightly taken, where the case stated by the sessions did not point to any objection.]

1839.

The QUEEN
against
READ.

Prendergast, *contra*, was not heard.

LORD DENMAN C. J. This order is not merely doubtful in its terms, but defective. If it entirely omits something essential, what can we do? I am sorry it is so; but the order cannot be sustained. The necessary words are very easily supplied, and ought to have been inserted.

LITLEDALE J. The words "in some material particular" are most material to the order.

WILLIAMS and COLERIDGE Js. concurred.

Rule absolute.

(c) 2 T. R. 660.

1839.

Saturday,
January 19th.

The QUEEN *against* The Inhabitants of
STOGUMBER.

Where a debtor is imprisoned in the county gaol in execution under a Court of Requests act, (which authorises such imprisonment for a limited time), and his wife resides in the parish where the gaol is situate, and has occasional access to him under the prison regulations, she cannot, if chargeable, be removed from the parish; for the principle, that husband and wife shall not be separated by an order of removal, applies, notwithstanding such imprisonment of the husband.

ON appeal against an order of two justices, dated 4th September 1837, removing *Sarah Stafford*, wife of *George Stafford* a prisoner &c., and their children, from the parish of *Bedminster* in the city and county of *Bristol* to the parish of *Stogumber* in the county of *Somerset*, the sessions confirmed the order, subject to the opinion of this Court upon the following case.

George Stafford, the husband of *Sarah* and father of *Sarah's* five children (issue of their marriage), was settled by birth in the parish of *Stogumber*. The said *Sarah* and the said five children had become chargeable to the parish of *Bedminster* at the date of the said order of removal; at which time the said *George Stafford* was confined in the gaol of the city and county of *Bristol*, which is situate in the said parish of *Bedminster*, in execution for 11l. and upwards, under the provisions of the *Bristol Court of Requests act* (a), for one hundred days, which expired on 21st November 1837. At the expiration of the one hundred days *George Stafford* was regularly discharged, and returned to his house in *Bedminster* to his wife and family, he being the tenant of such house, and having occupied that and other houses in *Bedminster* for the last fifteen years, and supported his wife and family there by his labour as a sawyer; and which he has continued to do since his discharge from prison and return to them. During the imprisonment

(a) 1 W. & M. sess. 1. c. 18., private.

of *G. Stafford* his wife was at liberty, at the times and in the manner which the rules of the prison permitted, to visit her husband. The question for the opinion of this Court was, whether under the circumstances the order of removal was good and valid.

1839.

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The QUEEN
against
The Inhabit-
ants of
STOCUMBER.

Jardine and *Bull* in support of the order of sessions. The objection to this order will be, that it compels a separation of the husband from his wife and family. The principle of the cases which may be cited against the order, as *Rex. v. Carleton (a)*, is, that it creates a virtual divorce; and it appears to have been presumed that, where the husband is living with his family, he may support them. But here the judgment of the Court of Requests had already separated the husband from his wife and family, and made him incapable of supporting them. The permissive and occasional consortium which the rules of the gaol allowed of cannot make any difference. Stat. 52 G. 3. c. 160. s. 3. does not apply, because that relates only to persons in custody on mesne process, and does not extend to county gaols. If this order be invalid, so also would the like order be, if the husband were a criminal imprisoned under sentence for a long term, or a debtor declining to take the benefit of the insolvent act: and in those cases the wife and family might be fixed for years upon the parish in which the gaol was. [*Coleridge J.* Suppose the wife in this case had been removed, and had returned to the removing parish, without certificate, after her husband was set at liberty, he being then chargeable to that parish: would she have been a vagrant under stat. 5 G. 4. c. 83. s. 3. ?]

(a) *Burr. & C.* 813.

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The Inhabit-
ants of
STOGUMBA.

Not if living with her husband : but, if she had returned before his discharge, she would have been a vagrant. If the pauper and her husband were already separated by the imprisonment, then *Sarah Stafford* was a married woman chargeable in the absence of her husband, like the pauper in *Rex v. Tibbenham (a)* : but, assuming that the imprisonment had not already created a virtual divorce, *Rex v. Eltham (b)* shews that an order removing the wife from the husband is good if they consent ; and here no reason appears for supposing that consent was not given. It will not be presumed, against the order of sessions, that such order will separate the wife from the husband ; *St. Michael in Bath v. Nunny (c)*, *Rex v. Stockton (d)*.

Erle, contra. The order, as separating husband and wife, contravenes a general rule ; and it lies on those who support the order to shew how the case is excepted from that rule. The husband's absence was only temporary ; for it could not exceed the time fixed by the *Bristol Court of Requests act* (1 *W. & M.* sess. 1. c. 18., private) even if the debt was not paid : and in fact, as soon as his imprisonment ended, he returned to his family and maintained them. It is said that the husband and wife were already so far deprived of consortium by the imprisonment as to be virtually divorced ; but they had access to each other ; the father might have the control of his children, and might give directions for the government of his family. If the legislature had intended that any order should be made for the removal of a family in a case like the present, some enactment

(a) 9 *East*, 388.(b) 5 *East*, 113.(c) 1 *Stra.* 544.(d) 5 *B. & Ad.* 546.

would

would probably have been made for the purpose, like that of stat. 49 G. 3. c. 124. s. 3. (which is introduced, as the preamble states, "to avoid any pretence for forcibly separating husband and wife"), enabling the justices to remove the husband as well as the family, but to suspend the order till his release. As to *Rex v. Eltham* (a), the consent there was stated in the order of removal: and in *Rex v. Leeds* (b) *Bayley J.* held that such an order, even by consent, was against public policy and good morals, and *Best J.* questioned its legality. *St. Michael in Bath v. Nunny* (c) and *Rex v. Stockton* (d) decide only that, if an order removing a married woman does not shew where the husband is, the Court will not intend, for the purpose of vitiating the order, that it separates the wife and husband. If, under the present circumstances, an order could have been made including the husband, he might have been removed to *Stogumber* when his imprisonment expired, the order being suspended in the mean time; but by this order the wife and family are precluded, under penalties, from returning to *Bedminster*, and yet the husband could not be removed thence after his discharge from prison, being then able to support himself. (He was then stopped by the Court.)

LORD DENMAN C. J. This case is quite clear. The wife was resident in the parish where the gaol was; and there might be a certain degree of consortium between her and the husband. There is nothing, either in the order or otherwise, that shews any right to separate them.

(a) 5 East, 113.

(c) 1 Strz. 544.

(b) 4 B. & Ald. 498.

(d) 5 B. & Ald. 546.

1859.

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The QUEEN
against
The Inhabit-
ants of
STOGUMBER.

1839. LITLEDALÉ, WILLIAMS, and COLERIDGE Js. concurred.

The QUEEN
against
The Inhabit-
ants of
STOGUMBER.

Orders quashed.

Saturday,
January 19th.

The QUEEN against The Inhabitants of St.
MARY KALENDAR.

Since the passing of stat. 4 & 5 W. 4. c. 76. s. 66., a person cannot gain a settlement by renting and occupying a tenement, unless he has been assessed to and paid the poor-rate in respect thereof for a year. But he may gain a settlement by payment of rates, under stat. 3 & 4 W. 4. c. 11. s. 6., if he has been assessed to, and paid, poor-rate for part of the year only, provided his renting and occupation have been such as to satisfy stat. 6 G. 4. c. 57. s. 2.

ON appeal against an order of two justices removing *Stephen Gay* from the parish of *St. Maurice*, in the county of *Southampton*, to the parish of *St. Mary Kalendar*, in the city and borough of *Winchester*, in the same county, the sessions confirmed the order, subject to the opinion of this Court upon the following case.

The respondents called the pauper, who proved that he took a house in *St. Mary Kalendar*, of a *Mrs. Page*, on the 5th October 1835, at the yearly rent of 16*l.*, payable quarterly, and that such tenancy might be put an end to by giving a quarter's notice at any period: that at the end of the first quarter he paid the rent then due: that he then complained of the rent being too high, and said that 'he should quit: that his landlady then said if he would remain she would take off 10*s.* per quarter from the rent, which was agreed to, and the parties afterwards acted in accordance with such agree-

ment. Pauper took a house at a yearly rent, payable quarterly, the tenancy to be determinable at any time, on a quarter's notice. At the end of the first quarter he paid the rent, but said it was too high, and that he should quit. The landlady said that, if he would remain, she would take off 10*s.* per quarter, which was agreed to, and the agreement acted upon. Pauper remained to the end of the year. Held, an occupation for a year under the original yearly hiring.

Ten days before the end of the year, pauper quitted the premises with his family, locked up the house, leaving only some few of his things in it, and went into another house. He likewise offered the key to his landlady, but she refused to accept it till the end of the year, when he gave it up to her and paid the full rent. Held, a sufficient occupation by the pauper for a year, under stat. 6 G. 4. c. 57. s. 2.

Where payment of rates for a whole year is material, it is no excuse for non-payment of the last rate that such rate, though made during the year, was not published till after its expiration.

ment:

ment: that he resided in the said house till 26th *September* 1836, when he with his family removed into a house which he had in another parish, having locked up Mrs. *Page's* house, in which he left only some few of his things: that his landlady, on being applied to on 29th *September*, refused to accept the key of the house till the 5th of *October*, on which day he surrendered the key and paid the remainder of his rent: that he was rated to all the rates made between 5th *October* 1835 and 5th *October* 1836: that he had paid all except the last rate, which was made on 29th *September*, confirmed and allowed on 4th *October*, and published *October* 9th. Of this last rate he paid no part, though his name was inserted in it; nor was it proved to have been demanded of him. It was admitted that the pauper had not gained a settlement in the appellant parish under 1 *W.* 4. c. 18., in consequence of his having taken in lodgers during part of the year: but the respondents contended that he had gained a settlement there by payment of parochial rates; and the sessions, being of that opinion, confirmed the order. The question, therefore, for the opinion of this Court was, whether the payment of rates, under the circumstances above stated, was sufficient (especially since stats. 6 *G.* 4. c. 57. and 4 & 5 *W.* 4. c. 76.) to confer a settlement in *St. Mary Kalendar*. The case was now argued (*a*).

Bere and *C. Saunders* in support of the order of sessions. The question arises under stat. 4 & 5 *W.* 4. c. 76. s. 66., which enacts that "from and after the passing of this act no settlement shall be acquired or com-

(a) Before Lord Denman C. J., Littledale, Williams, and Coleridge J.

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1839.

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The QUEEN
against
The Inhabit-
ants of
St. MARY
KALENDAR.

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The Inhabit-
ants of
ST. MARY
KALENDAR.

pleted by occupying a tenement, unless the person occupying the same shall have been assessed to the poor-rate, and shall have paid the same, in respect of such tenement, for one year." First, assuming that the occupation was such as stat. 6 G. 4. c. 57. required, there was a sufficient rating and payment of rates to satisfy stat. 4 & 5 W. 4. c. 76. The pauper paid all the rates made and published during his year of tenancy. There was, indeed, a rate made on 29th *September* and allowed on 4th *October*; and he was assessed to this, and did not pay it. But the rate, by stat. 17 G. 2. c. 3. s. 1., was not valid till published; *Rex v. Newcomb* (a): the time for appeal is reckoned from the publication; *Rex v. Micklefield* (b), *Rex v. The Justices of Wilts* (c). [Lord Denman C. J. mentioned *Regina v. Watts* (d).] Now the last rate in this case was not published till *October* 9th; and the pauper gave up his house on the 5th. And, further, stat. 4 & 5 W. 4. c. 76. s. 66. appears by its language to restrict only the acquiring of a settlement by occupation of a tenement, not the settlement (which falls under a distinct head) by payment of rates; and, if that is left upon its former footing, one assessment and payment of the rate would suffice, as was admitted by the Court in *Rex v. Ringstead* (e), notwithstanding the statute.

Then, was there a sufficient occupation in this case to satisfy stat. 6 G. 4. c. 57. s. 2.? For, if there was, the pauper is settled by payment of rates, though the requisitions of stat. 1 W. 4. c. 18., as to occupying the tenement, may not have been complied with; *Rex v. Stoke*

(a) 4 T. R. 368.

(c) 8 B. & C. 380.

(e) 7 B. & C. 607.

(b) 1 Bott, 310. pl. 291. 6th ed.

(d) 7 A. & E. 461.

Damerel (a). Now, under the former statute, a constructive occupation was sufficient; the stricter rule took its rise from the introduction of the word "actually" in stat. 1 W. 4. c. 18. s. 1., as appears from *Rex v. St. Nicholas, Rochester* (b). Here, the pauper did occupy the premises, according to the intent of stat. 6 G. 4. c. 57. s. 2., from October 5th, 1835, till September 26th, 1836; and he kept a constructive possession from that time till October 5th, 1836, by retaining the key, and leaving his goods on the premises. *Rex v. Great Bentley* (c) shews that this was a sufficient compliance with the statute. It may be argued that there was not an occupation under the yearly hiring; but from the conduct of the parties it is clear they thought that the contract of October 5th, 1835, was subsisting till October 5th, 1836. By the terms of the original taking a yearly tenancy was commenced; *Rex v. Herstmonceaux* (d): and the understanding at the end of the first quarter was that the landlady should take off part of the rent if the pauper would forbear availing himself, as he was about to do, of his power to determine the engagement.

Smirke and *C. Rawlinson*, contra. But for the case last cited it would seem reasonable to say that this was a quarterly tenancy only. Assuming, however, that it was yearly, the transaction at the end of the first quarter was an abandonment of the old tenancy, and beginning of a new one. The pauper had given notice to quit. [*Coleridge* J. It was not acted upon.] He remained only on condition of a change in the terms of holding. [*Coleridge* J. He waived his notice, on the rent being

1839.

THE QUEEN
against
The Inhabit-
ants of
St. Mary,
KALENDAR.

(a) 6 A. & E. 308.

(b) 5 B. & Ad. 219.

(c) 10 B. & C. 520.

(d) 7 B. & C. 551.

reduced.]

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The Inhabit-
ants of
St. MARY
KALENDAR.

reduced.] An alteration, not more important than this and by verbal arrangement, was held to create a new tenancy in *Rex v. Banbury (a)*. *Rex v. Great Chilton (b)* is an analogous case.

A more weighty objection, however, in this case, is that there was no sufficient occupation after September 26th, 1836. *Rex v. Great Bentley (c)* has been referred to; but in *Rex v. Ditcheat (d)*, there cited, all the Judges present appear to have held that, for the purpose of occupation, there must be a personal residence on some part of the premises. *Littledale J.* said, "In order to occupy a party must be personally resident by himself or his family." [Lord *Denman C. J.* It cannot have been meant that no occupation could take place without a personal residence. A man might occupy by bales of goods.] If he kept them there with the animus reverendi, it might be so. Either the party must himself be residing, or the house must be kept for him with the intention that he should make use of it. Here the house was shut up, and, in effect, vacant. If he had been rated for it while in that state, he might have appealed. By stat. 3 & 4 *W. & M. c. 11. s. 6.* payment of rates is substituted for the notice of inhabitancy required by sect. 3. But in such occupation as this there is nothing equivalent to notice; and, if a settlement is gained, the purpose of the statute is not answered. It is, as to the last period of the tenancy, as if the pauper had taken the house and never come to it, in which case there could have been no pretence for alleging an occupation. If the holding here described were an occupation, the words

(a) 1 *A. & E.* 136.

(b) 5 *T. R.* 672. See *Rex v. Buckingham*, 5 *B. & Ad.* 953, judgment of *Taunton J.*

(c) 10 *B. & C.* 590.

(d) 9 *B. & C.* 176.

in stat. 6 G. 4. c. 57. s. 2, "nor unless such house or building, or land, shall be occupied" &c. "for the term of one whole year," would be needless; the words "bonâ fide rented by such person" would have expressed all that was meant. [Lord Denman C. J. The meaning was, that a party might rent the house but never take possession; and that that should not be sufficient. Here is possession to a certain extent. The distinction that arises is not between occupation and mere holding, but between different modes of occupation. Coleridge J. Suppose he had gone away, without any animus reverendi, but had left a person on the premises; would not that have been an occupation? And, if so, may not he occupy in the same manner by his goods?] The difference between occupying and merely holding is dwelt upon by Littledale J. in *Rex v. Ditchet (a)*. The payment of rates here, though sufficient to have satisfied stat. 3 & 4 W. & M. c. 11. s. 6., was not a payment of the poor-rate "for one year" within stat. 4 & 5 W. 4. c. 76. s. 66. It must be contended on the other side that the last rate mentioned in the case was not made, because it was not published, during the year; a proposition for which no authority was cited. A rate is said to be made when the parish officers have prepared it; that appears by the ordinary form of the rate itself. It often happens that the allowance cannot be obtained till long after the making; and, in the meanwhile, changes must take place in the subject-matters of the rate: but it is not held to require alteration on that account. Stat. 17 G. 2. c. 3. s. 1. enacts that no rate shall be esteemed valid "so as to

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The Inhabit-
ants of
St. MARY
KALENDAR.

(a) 9 B. & C. 183.

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The Inhabit-
ants of
ST. MARY
KALENDAR.

collect and raise the same unless" it shall have been published; but not that, *until* published, it shall be ineffectual for all purposes. The pauper was liable to pay his proportion of the last rate for the time he resided after the making of it, according to stat. 17 G. 2. c. 38. s. 12. Paying his share of that rate would have completed his settlement; *Rex v. Bramley* (a). [Lord Denman C. J. I cannot forbear saying that words used by the Judges in particular cases are sometimes pressed to an unreasonable extent. The language of *Littledale J.*, in *Rex v. Ditchet* (b), referred only to the question of occupation in the particular case, though it has been cited in argument as the foundation of a general doctrine. So, the time of publishing a rate is material where something is necessarily to be dated from the publication, as the notice of appeal in *Regina v. Watts* (c); but it is not therefore material so as to affect rights (as that of voting) which depend upon the party being rated. We will look into the acts of parliament and the cases.]

Cur. adv. vult.

LORD DENMAN C. J., in this term (January 29d), delivered the judgment of the Court.

The question was whether, under the circumstances of this case, the pauper gained a settlement by payment of rates, the last rate made during the period of his tenancy not having been paid. The time at which that rate was published is not material. We think that the pauper gained a settlement by payment of rates, as he would have done before stat. 4 & 5 W. 4. c. 76.

(a) *Burr. S. C.* 75.

(b) 9 B. & C. 176.

(c) 7 A. & E. 461.

passed.

passed. The settlement would not, indeed, have been complete if the pauper had not occupied the premises for a year, within the meaning of stat. 6 G. 4. c. 57. s. 2., but we think that his occupation was sufficient under that statute, though he underlet during part of the year, and that *Rex v. Great Bentley (a)* goes farther than is necessary for the decision of this case. Stat. 4 & 5 W. 4. c. 76. s. 66. enacts, that no settlement shall be gained "by occupying a tenement," unless the occupier shall have been assessed to the poor-rate and paid the same, in respect of such tenement, "for one year." But that does not affect the present case; for the settlement is gained here, not by occupying a tenement, but by paying rates.

Order of sessions confirmed.

(a) 10 B. & C. 520.

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The Inhabit-
ants of
St. MARY
KALENDAR.

COLLIDGE *against* HEYWOOD.

Tuesday,
January 22d.

ASSUMPSIT. The declaration recited that *Daniel Potter* had distrained plaintiff's goods for rent; that defendant and *John Whytel*, for certain reasons which the declaration specified, were desirous that plaintiff should replevy, and prosecute an action of replevin against *Potter* for taking such distress; and that, in consideration of the premises, and that plaintiff, at defendant's and *Whytel*'s request, had replevied, and commenced an action of replevin (as above), defendant undertook and promised plaintiff "to save, defend, and keep harmless and indemnified the said plaintiff from the said distress, and all costs, damages, and expenses which he, the said plaintiff, had incurred or sustained, or should thereafter incur or sustain, by reason

On a contract to indemnify a plaintiff against costs, which he is afterwards called upon to pay, the cause of action arises when he pays, not when the costs are incurred, or the attorney's bill delivered to such plaintiff.

Therefore the statute of limitation runs from the time of payment.

1839.

 COLLINGS
 against
 HEYWOOD.

thereof, or by reason of the replevying of the same, or of the said action of replevin so commenced as aforesaid, or the prosecution thereof." Averment, that plaintiff prosecuted the action &c., and, the plaint being removed, proceedings were had &c. And that, although plaintiff necessarily incurred, laid out, and was obliged to pay, and did pay, divers sums &c. for costs and expenses of the replevin and of the action &c. (notice to defendant, and request to him to indemnify), yet defendant, disregarding &c., did not, nor would, when so requested, or at any time, save or defend plaintiff, or keep him harmless and indemnified from the premises or any part thereof, or from the payments, costs, and charges aforesaid, or any of them, or any part thereof, or from all or any damages in respect thereof, but therein failed &c. Common counts for work and journies, money paid, &c., and on an account stated.

Plea (among others not material here), that the causes of action did not accrue within six years. Verification. Traverse; and issue thereon.

On the trial before *Bosanquet J.*, at the *Chester Spring* assizes, 1837, it appeared that the plaintiff's action of replevin was commenced in 1825. The plaintiff put in a written agreement between himself on the one part, and defendant and *John Whytel* on the other, bearing date *April* 27th, 1826, whereby, after reciting that *Potter* claimed part of the rents of certain estates, including the premises held by plaintiff, and had distrained upon him for his alleged proportion of such rents; that defendant and *Whytel* disputed such claim; and that it had thereupon been agreed that plaintiff should be indemnified from all damages on account of such distress, or any other distress or action which

Potter

Potter had commenced, or might commence, against plaintiff on account of the said rent, defendant and *Whytel*, for themselves, and each of them, did promise plaintiff and agree with him that they, their executors, &c., or some or one of them, did and should from time to time, and at all times thereafter, save, defend, and keep indemnified the plaintiff and his goods, chattels, &c., "from the said distress, action or actions, suits, costs, damages and expenses which are now pending, or may be hereafter commenced, instituted, or otherwise incurred by reason or means of the said *Daniel Potter* claiming or suing for his alleged share or parts of any rent or rents arising from the said estates."

It further appeared that certain costs were incurred in the replevin suit in the course of 1826, and that the plaintiff's attorney delivered a bill to him for such costs, which he paid partly in *September* 1830, and partly in 1831. The present action was commenced *June* 20th, 1836. The attorney's bill was delivered more than six years before. The defendant's counsel contended, that the statute of limitations began to run from the time when the costs were incurred, not from the time of paying the bill, and, therefore, that the action was too late. The learned Judge thought otherwise; and the jury, under his direction, found a verdict for the plaintiff. *Evans*, in *Easter* term 1837, moved for a new trial on the ground of misdirection, and cited *Battle v. Faulkner* (a), *Short v. McCarthy* (b), *Howell v. Young* (c), *Brown v. Howard* (d), and *Bullock v. Lloyd* (e). A rule nisi was granted.

1839.

 COLLINGS
 against
 HEYWOOD.

(a) 3 B. & Ald. 388.

(b) 3 B. & Ald. 626.

(c) 5 B. & C. 259.

(d) 2 Brod. & B. 73.

(e) 2 Car. & P. 119.

1839.

COLLINGS
against
HEYWOOD.

Jervis and *Cottingham* now shewed cause. The agreement, the incurring of costs, and the delivery of the attorney's bill, all took place more than six years before the action was brought: but the bill was paid within the six years; and the time is to be computed from that event, not the previous ones. There must be a complete cause of action before the statute can begin to run. That is consistent with *Howell v. Young* (a) and *Short v. Mc. Carthy* (b), where the neglect complained of was complete before the six years began, though not discovered till afterwards. In the latter case, the plaintiff's counsel relied upon the non-discovery, and a supposed fraud in concealing the neglect, without contesting the principle now laid down. In *Battley v. Faulkner* (c), where the action was for breach of a contract to deliver spring wheat, instead of which the defendant had supplied winter wheat, the Court held that the statute ran from the breach of contract, that being the gist of the action, though the declaration stated a resulting special damage, said to have accrued within the six years. The principle of that case prevails also in actions of slander: if the slander is actionable per se, the statute runs from the time of publication; but, if only by reason of special damage, then from the accruing of such damage (d). A creditor holding a bill of exchange for his debt must, if he sue on the original consideration, proceed within six years from the time when such consideration passed; but, if on the bill, the time will run from the dishonour. In an action against a factor for not accounting, the

(a) 5 B. & C. 259. (b) 3 B. & Ald. 626. (c) 3 B. & Ald. 288.

(d) *Roberts v. Read*, 16 East, 215.; *Sutton v. Clarke*, 1 Marsh. 429.; *Boothby v. Morton*, 3 Brod. & B. 239.; *Massey v. Johnson*, 12 East, 67.; and *Pickersgill v. Palmer*, Bull. N. P. 24., were cited in illustration of this part of the argument.

statute runs from the time when an account was demanded and refused, the cause of action being complete then and not before; *Topham v. Braddick* (a). The defendant here must assert that this action might have been brought when the attorney's bill was sent in; but, if the plaintiff had sued before the bill was paid, he might have recovered less than the attorney would ultimately have recovered against him; for the attorney would not have been bound by the verdict in an action to which he was no party. This is not like the case of an accommodation acceptance, where the party accommodated is absolutely bound to provide funds at the maturity of the bill. Here the defendants, by their contract, were bound only to "save, defend, and keep harmless and indemnified" the plaintiff; they might do so in other modes than by paying. Circumstances may be supposed under which, in such a case, an attorney might be induced, or obliged, to forbear prosecuting his claim: at any rate the indemnifying parties ought not to lose the possible advantage of such a termination, by the action against them vesting immediately on delivery of the bill. The plaintiff was damnified, within the meaning of the contract, when he was compelled to pay, and not before. In *Bullock v. Lloyd* (b) the indorser of a bill of exchange, which was dishonoured, induced his indorsee to sue the acceptor, promising to indemnify him against the costs of the action; and *Abbott C. J.* certainly ruled that the indorsee might recover in an action upon the indemnity without proving that he had paid the bill of costs. But that appears to have been a hasty ruling at nisi prius, and will probably not be held

1839.

 COLLINGS
 against
 HAYWOOD.

(a) 1 Taunt. 572.

(b) 2 Carr. & P. 119.

1839.

COLLINGS
against
HEYWOOD.

maintainable. All the precedents in actions on indemnities allege that the plaintiff has paid the charges against which he was to be indemnified. If the right of action on this indemnity was complete when the bill was delivered, then, if the defendant had at that time become bankrupt, the plaintiff might have proved under his commission for the costs, or else the certificate would have been a bar; but this is contrary to *Goddard v. Vanderheyden* (a), *Young v. Hockley* (b), *Young v. Taylor* (c), and *The Overseers of St. Martin in the Fields v. Warren* (d). At all events the plaintiff here is entitled to recover on the count for money paid.

Evans contra. If the statute ran only from the actual payment, the plaintiff, by not paying, might prolong the defendant's liability at his pleasure. *Bullock v. Lloyd* (e) shews that the plaintiff might have sued the defendant for the whole costs as soon as he himself was liable for them. That liability, whenever it accrued, was the damnification. [Coleridge J. Suppose, after the plaintiff became liable, *Whytel* had paid the money. According to your argument the plaintiff might still have sued the defendant; for, if the right of action had vested, it could not have been taken away.] There would still, perhaps, have been a right to nominal damages. As to the right of action, the words of *Abbott C. J.* in *Bullock v. Lloyd* (e), are positive. The count for money paid cannot assist the plaintiff, because there is no evidence of an authority for such payment without referring to the contract of indemnity. The cases under the bankrupt laws are

(a) 3 *Wils.* 262.(b) 3 *Wils.* 346.(c) 8 *Taunt.* 315. Affirmed on error, *Taylor v. Young*, 3 *B. & Ald.* 521.(d) 1 *B. & Ald.* 491.(e) 2 *Car. & P.* 119.

irrelevant.

irrelevant. Here the question is simply when a right of action attached. There are many rights of action which cannot be proved in bankruptcy. For the purpose of proof under a commission there must be a clear and ascertained debt. Unliquidated damages in an action of trespass could not be proved. *Battle v. Faulkner* (a) is a strong authority for the defendant, and the reasoning of *Abbott* C. J. strictly applicable. [*Littledale* J. There the cause of action accrued at the time when the contract was broken, though the particular damage complained of did not result till afterwards.] Here, if the contract had been to make good the costs within a given period, or, in express terms, to pay them as soon as they were incurred, no difficulty could have arisen as to the time of the breach. But the effect of the contract was, that the defendant and *Whytel* should be bound to pay the costs whenever they became due; not whenever the plaintiff chose to pay them.

Lord DENMAN C. J. We thought it necessary to consider this case, because there was a ruling at nisi prius, in *Bullock v. Lloyd* (b), which seemed to be in point. But I think that cannot be supported: it is too clear that, in a case like this, no damage has arisen till the party to be indemnified is called upon to pay. The mere default of the surety after the debt has accrued is insufficient, because that default may be amended. Until the plaintiff was the sufferer, he had no right of action.

(a) 3 B. & Ald. 288.

(b) 2 Car. & P. 119.

1839.

 COLLINGS
 against
 HEYWOOD.

1839.
 COLLINGS
 against
 HERWOOD.

LITLEDALE J. I am of the same opinion. Mr. *Evans* is obliged to contend that the right of action accrued at all events as soon as the attorney delivered a bill to the plaintiff. But I do not see how that can be maintained, on a contract of indemnity. In *Hodgson v. Bell* (a) the defendant, by a single contract, undertook for payment of a bond at the day, and also for indemnifying the plaintiffs against another bond. The defendant became bankrupt; and the plaintiffs were afterwards called upon to pay the latter bond. The other had been forfeited before the bankruptcy; and, for that reason, it was held that the defendant was liable, before the commission, on his undertaking, and that his liability on it might have been a subject of proof; but, had not one bond been forfeited before the bankruptcy, it is evident from the language of the Court that no debt proveable under the commission would have resulted from the defendant's contract. A plea of non damnificatus, in the present case, would not have been answered by shewing merely that the attorney had delivered a bill; though it would have been otherwise if the agreement had been, in terms, to indemnify when the bill should be delivered. This was a contract to indemnify merely; and the cause of action did not accrue till the plaintiff was damnified by paying.

WILLIAMS J. The defendant here was liable in a certain event, but not while the plaintiff was untouched. In *Battley v. Faulkner* (b) the breach of contract was the cause of action, or there was none; but nothing fell within the six years except the special damage.

(a) 7 T. R. 97. See *Philpott v. Kelly*, 3 A. & E. 106.

(b) 3 B. & Ald. 288.

COLERIDGE J. The short answer to the plaintiff's demand is, that no cause of action arose till he was damnified, and that he was not damnified till he had paid the bill.

1839.

COLLINGS
against
HAYWOOD.

Rule discharged,

**FARRAR, CALVERLEY, and Another against
HUTCHINSON.**

Wednesday,
January 23d.

ASSUMPSIT by drawers, against acceptor, of a bill of exchange for 50*l.*, payable at three months, dated 28th *August* 1837. Counts for goods sold and on an account stated. Plea, payment; on which plea issue was tendered and joined. On the trial before Lord *Denman* C. J., at the sittings in *Middlesex* after *Michaelmas* term 1838, it appeared that the action was brought to recover a balance of 26*l.* on the above bill, drawn by the plaintiffs, partners in trade, for the price of goods sold by them to the defendant. The plaintiffs had become bankrupt after commencing the action; and it was carried on by their assignees. The defendant, in support of his plea, put in the following memorandum, dated *January* 9th, 1838. "Cash and goods from Mr. *B. Hutchinson*, at different times, 50*l.*, and expenses to take up the acceptance given to us on the 28th *August* last, at three months' date, and returned to Mr. *Morris*, and is now in his hands. *Farrar, Calverley, and Co.*" This receipt, though signed in the name of the firm, was written by *Farrar*: and declarations of *Farrar* were also proved, to shew that the claim in respect of the bill had been satisfied by such cash and goods. The evidence was objected to, but received. The plaintiffs proved a letter written by defendant, in *April* 1838, admitting

In an action brought by partners to recover a debt, if the defendant, to prove payment, gives in evidence a receipt signed by one of the plaintiffs, they are not concluded, but may shew that it was given under circumstances which destroy its effect, as fraud on the partners not signing.

1839.

FARRAR
 against
HUTCHINSON.

admitting a balance of 23*l.* 1*s.* 11*d.* due from him to the plaintiffs: and they contended that the receipt had not been given bonâ fide, but procured for the purposes of the cause. The Lord Chief Justice left it to the jury to say whether the receipt was given bonâ fide, or for the purposes suggested. The plaintiffs had a verdict for 23*l.* 1*s.* 11*d.*

Cresswell, in this term (*a*), moved for a new trial on the ground of misdirection. The question left to the jury, whether the receipt was given bonâ fide or not, by *Farrar*, could not properly arise. If the plaintiffs had been continuing the action in their own right, they could not have raised the suggestion of mala fides against a paper given by their partner, that is, in effect, by themselves. Neither, then, can their assignees make such a defence. *Alner v. George* (*b*) is in point. There the defendant produced a receipt in full from the plaintiff; and it was proposed to prove that such receipt had been given collusively to cheat the plaintiff's creditors, by whom in reality the action was brought, the plaintiff having assigned his effects for their benefit. But Lord *Ellenborough* said: "Sitting here I can only look to the strict legal rights of the parties upon the record; and there can be no doubt that a receipt in full, where the person who gave it was under no misapprehension and can complain of no fraud or imposition, is binding upon him." "The plaintiff might have released the action; and it is impossible to admit evidence of his attempting to defraud others, and to recognise the

(*a*) January 17th. Before Lord Denman C. J., *Littledale, Williams, and Coleridge Js.*

(*b*) 1 Camp. 392.

transfer of choses in action, without confounding all legal distinctions." Here, however, no pretence existed for imputing to *Farrar* a fraud on his co-partners. In *Skaiſe v. Jackson (a)*, where evidence was held admissible to impeach a receipt given by one of the plaintiffs, fraud was shewn.

1839.

FARRAR
against
HUTCHINSON.

Cur. adv. vult.

Lord DENMAN C. J. now delivered the judgment of the Court. After stating the point made in moving, his Lordship said :

Mr. *Cresswell* cited *Alner v. George (b)* ; but that case is not directly applicable. There no doubt existed that the receipt had been really given by the party whose claim it affected ; but it was alleged that third persons, who had an interest in the demand, were injured by the transaction. Lord *Ellenborough* held that the receipt was nevertheless binding. Here the objection is, that the receipt, though signed by one of the firm for whom it is given, the members of which are the plaintiffs on the record, is a fraud upon the rest. In *Benson v. Bennett (c)*, cited in the note to *Alner v. George (b)*, a receipt, signed by the plaintiff, was produced by the defendant ; but he was proved to have obtained it from the plaintiff by deception ; and therefore it was held not binding. It appears to us that in all cases a receipt signed by a party, like any other statement made by him and produced afterwards to affect him, is evidence, but evidence only, and capable of being explained. There will, therefore, be no rule.

Rule refused (*d*).

(a) 3 B. & C. 421.

(b) 1 Camp. 392.

(c) 1 Camp. 393. note.

(d) See *Graves v. Key*, 3 B. & Ad. 313.

1839.

Thursday,
January 24th.

DOE on the several demises of PHILLIP and
WALTERS against MARGARET BENJAMIN.

Tenant being in possession under a demise for three years ending *Michaelmas* 1836, at a rent payable at *Michaelmas*, the landlord and tenant agreed in writing as follows.

Memorandum of agreement made 13th December 1834, between &c. : P. (the landlord) agrees to let the farm &c. to B. (the tenant) for fourteen years, determinable at the end of seven years with twelve months' notice (not stating the commencement), at the yearly rent of 20*l.*, payable half-yearly; a lease to be drawn upon the usual terms by T. And B. agrees to take it upon the said terms.

Held, a present lease, commencing on *December* 18th, 1834.

The paper had only an agreement stamp. On the trial of an ejectment, it was given in evidence as an agreement. The counsel producing it were afterwards obliged, during the trial, to rely upon it as a lease. No objection was then or previously taken to the stamp. On argument in banc, as to the operation of the document, the want of a proper stamp was urged. Held, that the objection came too late, and should have been taken at that period of the trial when counsel first stated that they should rely upon the instrument as a lease.

EJECTMENT for lands in *Carmarthenshire*. On the trial before *Coleridge* J. at the *Carmarthen* Spring assizes, 1837, it appeared that in 1833 *William Benjamin*, the defendant's late husband, had possession of the premises under the lessor of the plaintiff *Phillip*, for a term, which was determinable at the expiration of three years from *Michaelmas* 1833, on giving six months' notice. *Benjamin* had entered some months before the *Michaelmas* of that year, on the terms of paying rent for the portion of 1833 ending *September* 29th, and, afterwards, from *Michaelmas* to *Michaelmas*. The amount of rent did not appear. *William Benjamin* continued in possession till his death, which happened early in 1836. It was proved, on the part of the plaintiff, that *Phillip*, in *November* 1835, demised the premises to *Walters*, the other lessor of the plaintiff, for twenty-one years, beginning at *Michaelmas* 1836: and that, in *March* 1836, *Phillip* gave the defendant (whose husband was then dead, but who continued in possession) six months' notice to quit at the ensuing *Michaelmas*, when the three years ended. The defendant, at the trial, put in a lease, dated 10th *December* 1836 (after the commence-

ment

ment of this action), from *Phillip* to the defendant, whereby he demised the premises (still in her possession) to her, for a term of fourteen years from *December* 13th 1834. This lease referred to an agreement of the last-mentioned date, which was also put in, and ran as follows.

“Memorandum of an agreement made this 13th day of *December* 1834, between *Jenkin Phillip* of the one part, and *William Benjamin* of the other part. The said *J. P.* agrees to let the farm of *Cevengrich* and *Tirbach* to the said *W. B.* for the term of fourteen years, determinable at the end of seven years at the option of either party upon giving twelve months' previous notice, at and for the yearly rent or sum of 20*l.* payable half yearly, without any deduction whatever: a lease to be drawn upon the usual terms by *Mr. Thomas Bishop*: and the said *William Benjamin* agrees to take it upon the said terms. As witness our hands” &c. Signed by *Phillip* and *W. Benjamin*.

This instrument bore a *1*l.** agreement stamp. The plaintiff's counsel objected that the lease could not avail, because *Phillip*, at the time of executing it, had demised, as before mentioned, to *Walters*. The defendant's counsel then contended that the agreement of *December* 13th, 1834, amounted to a lease. The learned judge thought that the agreement, whatever was its operation in other respects, might have disabled *Phillip* from giving notice to quit at *Michaelmas* 1836; and he directed a verdict for the defendant, reserving the question as to the effect of the agreement, and giving leave to move to enter a verdict for the plaintiff. *Evans*, in the ensuing *Easter* term, moved accordingly, and contended that the instrument of *December* 1834 was an agreement only,

not

1839.

Doz dem.
PHILLIP
against
BENJAMIN.

1839. not a lease, and therefore did not put an end to *William Benjamin's* original lease (*Roe dem. Berkeley v. The Archbishop of York* (a), *Hamerton v. Stead* (b)); which lease, therefore, and the defendant's interest in the premises, were determined by the notice given to quit at *Michaelmas* 1836. A rule nisi was granted.

—
Doe dem.
Phillip
against
Benjamin.

Chilton and *W. M. James* now shewed cause. It will be contended that the instrument of *December* 1834 is not a lease, because it mentions no day from which the term shall commence. But, where that is so, the term begins from the making of the lease. "If a man says, you shall have a lease of land in *D.* for twenty-one years at 10*l.* per annum, make a lease in writing, and I will seal it; it will be a lease by parol, though not in writing;" *Com. Dig. tit. Estates*, (G 1.), citing *Maldon's Case* (c). The same construction applies to a written agreement. In *Staniforth v. Fox* (d), where the words were, I "this day agree to let" "for the term of ten years," and no time of commencement was stated, the instrument was held to be a present demise. *Park J.* there relies upon the absence of any stipulation respecting a future entry, as shewing that a prospective agreement was not intended. Here no such stipulation is made. In *Dunk v. Hunter* (e), where the words were held not to constitute a present demise, the period of commencement was not only unmentioned, but expressly left uncertain, by the words "any time on or before the 11th day of *February*, 1820." If it be contended that by the

(a) 6 *East*, 86.

(b) 3 *B. & C.* 482., per *Hobroyd J.*

(c) *Cro. Eliz.* 33.

(d) 7 *Bing.* 590.

(e) 5 *B. & Ald.* 322.

writing

writing now in question a future lease is specifically provided for, that was also the case in *Warman v. Faithfull* (a), where the instrument was held to be a lease, and *Littledale J.* cited *Harrington v. Wise* (b), where it was said that the words "doth let" were a demise, and that the subsequent ones, as to a future lease, were "in reference to further assurance." It may be said that the nature of the intended lease is left too uncertain, because it is to "be drawn upon the usual terms," and they are no further described; but in *Doe dem. Walker v. Groves* (c) the future lease was "to contain the usual covenants," and yet a present demise was held to take place, Lord *Ellenborough* referring to *Barry v. Nugent* (d). A specific performance would be decreed on such an agreement, the lease to be drawn with the usual covenants. As was said by *Tindal C. J.* in *Doe dem. Pearson v. Ries* (e), if the agreement for a future lease "leaves nothing uncertain," it does not prevent the rest of the instrument from operating as a present demise. In *Chapman v. Bluck* (g) the decision was in favour of an actual demise, though the facts tended more strongly to an opposite conclusion than in the present case. In *John v. Jenkins* (h), where the instrument was held not to constitute a lease, the rent was to be fixed according to a valuation, and sureties given for the payment; the valuation was never made, nor the rent fixed, nor sureties given. That case, therefore, differs entirely from

1839.

Doe dem.
PHILLIP
against
BENJAMIN.

- (a) 5 B. & Ad. 1042.
- (b) Cro. Eliz. 486. S. C. 1 Roll. Abr. 847. Estate, (X.), pl. 2.
- (c) 15 East, 244.
- (d) Cited, in *Doe dem. Jackson v. Ashburner*, 5 T. R. 165.
- (e) 8 Bing. 178.
- (g) 4 New Ca. 187.
- (h) 1 Cro. & M. 227. S. C. 3 Tyr. 170. See *Hayward v. Haswell*, 6 A. & E. 265.

1839.

DOE dem.
 PHILLIP
 against
 BENJAMIN.

the present. It may be said that the stamp is not a proper one for a lease: but that objection was not taken at the trial.

Evans and *E. V. Williams*, contra. The writing of December 13th, 1834, was only an agreement; and, if so, the situation of *William Benjamin* as tenant was not altered, the notice to quit was good, and *Walters's* right attached at *Michaelmas* 1836. No objection to the stamp could be taken at the trial, because this instrument was put in as an agreement only, though the attempt afterwards was to use it as a lease. As to the terms of the contract, it may be admitted that, if there be an actual agreement to take and to let, a present lease is created, if there be nothing in the state of things to afford ground for a contrary conclusion. The construction, as *Ashhurst J.* said in *Doe dem. Jackson v. Ashburner (a)*, "ought to depend on the intention of the parties, which must be collected from the words of the agreement and from collateral circumstances." A principal test of the intention to grant a present lease has been, that the tenant has been actually let into possession when the agreement was executed; *Hamerton v. Stead (b)*, *Chapman v. Bluck (c)*: here that test is wanting, for *W. Benjamin* was already in possession; and no act is proved to have been done shewing a surrender of the old and a ratification of the new contract. [*Littledale J.* I do not see how the construction of the instrument can be affected by the letting into possession. Nothing is said of being let into possession, in the judgment of *Mansfield C. J.* in *Morgan dem. Dowding v.*

(a) 5 T. R. 163.

(b) 3 B. & C. 478.

(c) 4 New Ca. 187.

Bissell (a).] It may be admitted that acts of the parties, subsequent to the contract, are not to be relied upon, though this was done in *Barter dem. Abrahall v. Browne* (b), contrary, as it seems, to general principles of law. Looking, in this case, only to the agreement, and the circumstances which existed when it was made, the tenant was already in possession, holding at a yearly rent, and did not need any present demise: he signed a contract with his landlord, by which the landlord agreed to let; but the tenant made no agreement to take before a lease was drawn: and, of the lease to be drawn, no covenant was specified; though the tenant was to take on the terms of it. No period was fixed for the commencement of such lease. The consequence of that was, as the defendant argues, that it commenced immediately; but, if so, then, as the agreement was made on *December 15th*, and the former renting was from *Michaelmas* to *Michaelmas*, the landlord threw away the rent of the then current year from *September 29th*, which can scarcely have been intended. It must have been contemplated that the tenant should continue renting from *Michaelmas* to *Michaelmas* till the new terms of holding were provided for by the proposed lease. In *Doe dem. Pearson v. Ries* (c), where the agreement, as to rent, was to take effect in the middle of a quarter, it was expressly stipulated that the first payment, for the half quarter, should be made at *Christmas*. In *Doe dem. Walker v. Groves* (d) the landlord contracted to let, and also, upon demand, to execute a lease; here the words are different; and in that case, as well as in *Poole v. Bentley* (e), it was ex-

1839.

—
Doe dem.
Philip
against
Benjamin.

(a) 3 Taunt. 65.

(b) 2 W. Bl. 973.

(c) 8 Bing. 178.

(d) 15 East, 244.

(e) 12 East, 168.

1899.

—
Dor dem.
PHILLIP
against
BENJAMIN.

pressly stipulated that the agreement then signed should be binding till the intended lease should be made.

Lord DENMAN C. J. (after stating the principal facts of the case). The plaintiff having proved a notice to quit, expiring at *Michaelmas* 1896, the defendant undertook to shew, not only an agreement, but a lease, for a further term: he accordingly produced the document of *December* 1894 as an agreement, and likewise put in a lease. It was answered that, when that lease was executed, *Phillip* had parted with the power to grant it, by a demise in 1895 to *Walters*. Then the defendant's counsel insisted that the agreement was in effect a lease. And the first question is, whether the defendant's counsel, having produced it as an agreement, could afterwards set it up as a lease. For the plaintiff it is argued that this had the effect of a stratagem, because, when the instrument was received in evidence as an agreement, no objection could be taken to the stamp, which, for a lease, was insufficient. But I think that the objection should have been taken when the defendant's counsel said that he should rely on the document as a lease. There is no reason that the Judge should not have said, "If you rest your title on this as a lease, it should have a suitable stamp;" that is, provided the objection had been taken; but none was made. Then, is this document, in its terms, a lease, or only an agreement? I think it is a lease. The tenant being already in possession, the landlord agrees to let him the premises for fourteen years. He means to increase his interest by the additional term; and, when he says "I agree to let," he does in fact demise it for the fourteen years. The tenant's being already in possession does not

not weaken the effect of the instrument. It is urged as a difficulty that the intended lease is to be "drawn upon the usual terms," and that it does not appear what those were considered to be. But the parties did not intend to create any new interest; all they contemplated was that there should be a lease drawn which should formally express the terms upon which the tenant was holding. It is also observed that no time is specified at which the lease shall commence, and that, if it is supposed, in consequence, to begin immediately, the existing term is surrendered, and a part of the current rent dropped. That may be so; but, if such is the case, it is probable that the parties did not contemplate all the consequences of their agreement (a). It may have been intended that the new term should commence from the end of the year then running. But, however this may be, unless we saw that the parties had the loss of rent in their minds, and intended to avoid it, that consequence cannot prevail against the words of the instrument, which import a present lease. The rule must therefore be discharged; and I am not sorry that we reach a conclusion by which justice is done.

1839.

DOE dem.
PHILLIP
against
BENJAMIN.

LITTLEDALE J. The words "agree to let" have long been held the same as words of actual letting. It is said here that the agreement for a future lease is inconsistent with a present demise; and it would have been as well if that distinction had been upheld from the first: but it has been long settled that that circumstance alone will not reduce what would otherwise be a present demise to a mere agreement. As to the pro-

(a) See a similar observation in *Doe dem. Evans v. Evans*, p. 724. post.

1839.

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 DOR dem.
 PHILLIP
 against
 BENJAMIN.

vision that the lease shall contain the usual covenants, *Mansfield C. J.* certainly held, in *Morgan dem. Dowding v. Bissell (a)*, that such a description of the intended lease was uncertain, and inconsistent with the supposition of a present demise; but in later cases a different opinion has prevailed. Then it is argued that no time is fixed for the commencement of the lease, and that the intention of the parties could not be elucidated by the letting into possession, as *Benjamin* was in possession already. But the intention of the parties must be collected from the instrument itself. In *Co. Lit.* 46 b. it is said, "If the lease bear date the 26th day of *May*, &c. to have and to hold from the making hereof, or from henceforth, it shall begin on the day on which it is delivered, for the words of the indenture are not of any effect till the delivery, and thereby from the making, or from henceforth, take their first effect. But if it be à die confectionis, then it shall begin on the next day after the delivery. If the habendum be for the term of twenty-one years, without mentioning when it shall begin, it shall begin from the delivery, for there the words take effect, as is aforesaid." Here, then, I think the instrument must be considered as a lease from the date of the agreement. There may be a loss of rent, as was suggested; probably the parties never thought of that; but it can make no difference in point of law.

WILLIAMS J. As to the stamp, I think that the objection is got over. Counsel should have taken it when the instrument was mentioned as a lease. As to the construction, *Staniforth v. Fox (b)* is a case very near

(a) 3 Taunt. 65.

(b) 7 Bing. 590.

this

this in words and in principle. The result of the whole instrument here is that the tenant agrees to take on the contemplated terms, although they are not yet expressed. The mention of a future lease makes no difference. We cannot, indeed, shut our eyes to the fact that there is an extinction of rent, which the parties probably did not contemplate. A layman, perhaps, might understand that there was to be a present lease, but that the rent in question not to be merged. We must, however, give the transaction its legal effect, and not look to consequences.

1839.

Dox dem.
 PHILLIP
 against
 BENJAMIN.

COLERIDGE J. The Courts have come to some inconsistent conclusions in cases of this kind: but from the main body of them the principle results, that we must look to the intention of the parties, and that by considering the terms of the particular instrument, with reference, I agree, to the state of facts existing at the time. We are not to regard facts which are merely collateral: but we may look to the face of the document to see whether great convenience or inconvenience would result from any proposed construction, in the state of things existing at the time to which the instrument relates. Looking to the facts in this case, I think that some might favour one construction, and some another; but upon the whole I think the fair conclusion is, that this is a lease. And it is not unreasonable to suppose that the parties, intending a present lease, did not immediately foresee all the consequences which might result from it.

Rule discharged.

1839.

Friday,
January 25th.

LIDSTER *against* BORROW.

A gamekeeper authorized to seize the dogs of unqualified persons sporting on a manor, by deputation given before stat. 1 & 2 W. 4. c. 32., and not renewed, cannot justify seizing the dogs of uncertificated persons committing such trespass, since the passing of the act.

Nor is he entitled to notice of action under stat. 1 & 2 W. 4. c. 32. s. 47., on the ground that he *bonâ fide* supposed him-

self to be acting in pursuance of the statute.

TROVER for two greyhounds. Pleas, Not Guilty, and denial that the dogs were plaintiff's. Issues thereon. On the trial before *Patteson J.*, at the *Durham* Spring assizes, 1837, it appeared that the defendant was gamekeeper of a manor, and, in that capacity, took the dogs from the plaintiff, who was an uncertificated person, and was using them, during the night, in the pursuit of game. The defendant acted under a deputation, authorising such seizure, given to him in 1814, and not since renewed. No notice of action had been served; and on this ground the plaintiff was nonsuited. *Knowles*, in the ensuing term, *April* 17th, obtained a rule nisi for a new trial, on the ground that stat. 1 & 2 W. 4. c. 32. s. 47. (a) (which requires such notice

(a) The following clauses of stat. 1 & 2 W. 4. c. 32. were particularly referred to in the ensuing argument.

Sect. 1 repeals stat. 22 & 23 Car. 2. c. 25. and other statutes, from October 31st 1831, "except so far as any of the said acts may repeal the whole or any part of any other acts, and except as to any offences which may have been committed against any of the said acts before or upon the said 31st day, and as to any penalties which may have been incurred thereunder before or upon the said 31st day, which offences shall be dealt with and punished, and the penalties recovered, as if this act had not been made, and except as to any matters done by any persons under the authority of any of the said acts before or upon the said 31st day, with respect to whom every privilege and protection given by any of the said acts shall continue in force as if this act had not been made."

Sect. 5 continues the provisions of former acts as to obtaining certificates, and enacts, that "all the powers, provisions, and penalties contained in such act or acts shall continue in as full force and effect as if this act had not been made; and that all regulations and provisions contained

notice to persons sued for any thing done in pursuance of that act) could not apply to a gamekeeper appointed under stat. 22 & 23 Car. 2. c. 25. s. 1., and not having had his députation renewed; since the authorities conferred under that act, assuming them to be still in force, were materially different from those given by the recent statute.

1839.

LISTER
against
BORROW.

Alexander and Ingham now shewed cause. The judgment of the Court of Common Pleas in *Bush v. Green (a)*,
since

contained in any act or acts relative to game certificates, so far as they relate to gamekeepers of manors, and to the amount of duty for game certificates to be charged upon or in respect of gamekeepers of manors in the cases specified in such act or acts, shall extend and apply to all gamekeepers of lands appointed under this act as fully and effectually as if they were gamekeepers of manors, and were expressly mentioned in and charged by such act or acts."

Sect. 13 enacts, "That it shall be lawful for any lord of a manor, lordship, or royalty, or reputed manor, lordship, or royalty, or any steward of the crown of any manor, lordship, or royalty appertaining to his Majesty, by writing under hand and seal, or in case of a body corporate then under the seal of such body corporate, to appoint one or more person or persons as a gamekeeper or gamekeepers to preserve or kill the game within the limits of such manor, lordship, or royalty, or reputed manor, lordship, or royalty, for the use of such lord or steward thereof, and to authorise such gamekeeper or gamekeepers within the said limits to seize and take for the use of such lord or steward all such dogs, nets, and other engines and instruments for the killing or taking of game as shall be used within the said limits by any person not authorised to kill game for want of a game certificate."

Sect. 47 enacts, "for the protection of persons acting in the execution of this act," that, where actions shall be commenced "against any person for any thing done in pursuance of this act," "notice in writing of such action, and of the cause thereof, shall be given to the defendant one calendar month at least before the commencement of the action;" and the defendant may plead the general issue, and give the act and the special matter in evidence, &c.

(a) 4 New Ca. 41. (*Mich. T. 1837*). This cause was tried at the *Somersetshire Spring assizes, 1837*, and a verdict found for the plaintiff.

A rule

1839.

LIVERIA
against
BORROW.

since the present rule was granted, is unfavourable to the defendant; but the decision there may be reviewed. It cannot have been intended by stat. 1 & 2 W. 4. c. 32. to take away the powers of every gamekeeper previously appointed. The only material alteration introduced by it on this head is, that the dogs of an uncertificated person, whether qualified or not, may now be seized, whereas formerly the seizure could be made only if the person was unqualified. Sect. 5 must be construed as keeping alive former deputations; and, if so, the power to seize, given by such deputations, must extend to the cases in which a seizure is authorised by this act. Sect. 47 protects, in general terms, "any person" against whom a suit shall be commenced for any thing done in pursuance of this act. The defendant therefore might be entitled to notice though not acting in the execution of his duty as a gamekeeper. And if, although not so acting in discharge of a duty under the statute, he bonâ fide thought that he was, he may claim the benefit of notice, according to *Beechey v. Sides* (a), and *Ballinger v. Ferris* (b); the principle of which decisions is laid down also in *Cook v. Leonard* (c). This point was not noticed by the Court of Common Pleas in *Bush v. Green* (d). Some powers are given by stat. 1 & 2 W. 4. c. 32. to the servants of persons entitled to the game or occupying the land; sects. 31, 36. The defendant here was at least servant to such a person,

A rule nisi for entering a nonsuit was moved for in this Court, by mistake, April 18th (the day after the motion in the present case), and a rule nisi granted, April 25th.

(a) 9 B. & C. 806.

(b) 1 M. & W. 628. S. C. *Tyrwh. & Gr.* 920.

(c) 6 B. & C. 351.

(d) 4 New Ca. 41.

and

and might suppose himself legally acting as servant; and, if that would bring him within the statute, it will be taken that he did consider himself so acting, and the plaintiff cannot allege that in reality he meant to act as gamekeeper: *Briggs v. Evelyn (a)*. [Lord Denman C. J. That case goes very far.]

1839.

LIDDELL
against
BORROW.

Knowles, contra. *Bush v. Green (b)* decides this case. [Lord Denman C. J. Not expressly as to the last point.] It does so virtually. (He was then stopped by the Court.)

LORD DENMAN C. J. The defendant mistakenly supposed that he had the rights of a gamekeeper. If he had been a keeper, and, consequently, bound to seize if he was right in thinking that the circumstances warranted it, the cases cited on the last point might have applied. But a person fancying that he fills a character, which he does not fill, cannot claim to be protected on the principle of those cases. We are therefore bound (especially since the decision in the Court of Common Pleas) to make this rule absolute.

LITLEDAL, PATTESON, and WILLIAMS Js. concurred.

Rule absolute (c).

(a) 2 H. Bl. 114.

(b) 4 New Ca. 41.

(c) See *Reed v. Commendow*, 6 A. & E. 661. *Wedge v. Berkeley*, 6 A. & E. 663. *Wells v. Ody*, 2 Cro. M. & R. 128. S. C. 5 Tyrwh. 725.

1839.

*Saturday,
January 26th.*

Land was let for one year, and so on from year to year, until the tenancy should be determined as was after mentioned, with a subsequent proviso, that three months should be sufficient notice to be given from either party, and another subsequent proviso, that it should be lawful for either party to determine the tenancy by giving three months' notice. Held, that the tenancy was not determinable by three months' notice expiring before the end of the second year.

DOE on the demise of CHADBORN *against* GREEN.

EJECTMENT for premises in *Gloucestershire*. On the trial before *Parke B.*, at the *Gloucestershire* Spring assizes, 1837, it appeared that the lessor of the plaintiff had demised the premises to the defendant by an instrument, dated 5th *January* 1836, purporting to be an agreement between the lessor of the plaintiff and the defendant, whereby the former agreed to let, and the latter to take, "for one year from the date hereof, and so on from year to year, until the tenancy hereby created shall be determined as after mentioned, a house," &c., at the yearly rent of 10*l.*, to be paid quarterly, the rent to commence from 5th *January* 1836, "and three months shall be sufficient notice to be given from either" of the parties. And it was further agreed "that it shall be lawful for the said *Joshua Chadborn* to determine the tenancy by either of us giving unto the other three months' notice of either of their intentions."

The defendant took possession under this agreement on 5th *January* 1836. On 29th *September* 1836 the plaintiff served the defendant with notice to quit "on the 6th day of *January* now next ensuing, or whenever else your tenancy expires."

The defendant's counsel contended that the lessor of the plaintiff could not determine the tenancy at the expiration of the first year: but the learned Judge, being of a different opinion, directed a verdict for the plaintiff. In *Easter* term, 1837, *Talfourd* Serjt. obtained

obtained a rule nisi for a new trial on the ground of misdirection.

1839.

DOE dem.
CHADBORN
against
GREEN

W. J. Alexander now shewed cause (a). This was a tenancy determinable at the end of the first year by three months' previous notice. *Birch v. Wright* (b) was cited for the defendant at Nisi Prius; but the learned Baron considered *Thompson v. Maberly* (c) applicable, where a demise "for twelve months certain, and six months' notice afterwards" was held by Lord *Ellenborough* to be determinable by a six months' notice expiring at the end of the first year. That is a stronger case than the present: for here the tenancy is only for one year certain, and from year to year, until put an end to by notice; whereas in *Thompson v. Maberly* (c) it might have been argued that the notice could be given only after the first year had expired. In *Kemp v. Derrett* (d), where the term was defined only by a stipulation that the tenant was always to quit at three months' notice, it was held that the notice might expire at the end of any quarter from the first taking. In *Doe dem. Pitcher v. Donovan* (e) it was held that a demise at so much a year, to quit at a quarter's notice, must be determined by a notice expiring with a year of the tenancy. [Coleridge J. The present case rather seems to be within the first alternative there put by *Chambre J.* (g). "If it was a tenancy from year to year, with a quarter's warning, it would be a quarter ending with the year: but if it were a demise for one year only, and then to con-

(a) Before Lord Denman, C. J., Littledale, Williams, and Coleridge, Js.

(b) 1 T. R. 378. (c) 2 Campb. 572.

(d) 3 Campb. 510. (e) 1 Taunt. 555.; and at N. P. 2 Campb. 78.

(g) 1 Taunt. 557.

1839.

Don dem.
CHADWICK
against
GARRK.

tinue tenant afterwards, and quit at a quarter's notice, it would be a quarter ending at any time." Upon any view, this notice, inasmuch as it expired with the first year, satisfies the rule, unless the demise be for two years certain. *Birch v. Wright (a)*, which was cited to shew that the demise was for two years, did not decide this; the main question was upon another point. Here the agreement, by its terms, and especially by its repeating the provision as to notice, shews an intention that the term was to be determined by a notice expiring at any time. No case has occurred in which the expressions were exactly similar to these.

Talfourd Serjt., contra. The argument for the plaintiff would shew that three months' notice, given at any time after the commencement of the tenancy, would determine it: and then the expression "so on from year to year" would have no effect. In the first instance, laying out of consideration the clause as to notice, there is a tenancy for two years certain: that is established by the remarks of Buller J. in *Birch v. Wright (a)*, where he collects and comments on several cases, and by *Denn dem. Jacklin v. Cartwright (b)*. Then what is the effect of the proviso as to notice engrafted on such a tenancy? It cannot apply to the end of the first year rather than the second: it merely enables either party, at the expiration of any year after the first, to determine the tenancy by three months' notice. *Thompson v. Maberly (c)* was a very different case. There the demise was "for twelve months certain, and six months' notice afterwards." Lord *Ellenborough* decided upon the effect

(a) 1 T. R. 378.

(b) 4 East, 29.

(c) 2 Campb. 572.

of the word *certain*, as shewing that all beyond the twelve months was uncertain. This explains the decision, which, at first sight, seems a singular one, as giving no effect to the word *afterwards*. [*W. J. Alexander*. In *Denn dem. Jacklin v. Cartwright* (a) the words were "not for one year only, but from year to year."]

Cur. adv. vult.

Lord DENMAN C. J., in this term (*January 29th*), delivered the judgment of the Court. After stating the facts, and the arguments, his Lordship said,

We think that my brother *Talfourd* has explained *Thompson v. Maberly* (b) correctly. The word *afterwards* there seems to mean that, if the tenant chose to hold on after the time named as *certain*, the first twelve months, then six months' notice should be necessary. We consider, therefore, that the notice in the present case was insufficient under the terms of the contract, which gives a term for a year and so on from year to year. This is consistent with the doctrine laid down in *Birch v. Wright* (c), and with sound reason; for the language of the contract clearly contemplates a term longer than one year.

Rule absolute (d).

(a) 4 *East*, 29.

(b) 2 *Compb.* 572.

(c) 1 *T. R.* 378.

(d) "In case a lease be for a year, and so from year to year, as long as both parties shall please, that is a lease binding but for one year; but if the lessee, without countermand of the lessor, enter upon the second year, he is bound for that year, and so on: and if the lease be for a year, and so from year to year till six years expire, that is a certain lease for six years: also if it be made for a year, and so from year to year, as long as both parties agree, till six years shall expire, that is a lease for six years determinable at every year's end at the will of either party." Per *Holt C. J.*, in *Dod v. Monger*, *Holt*, 416. *S. C.* 6 *Mod.* 215. It does not appear that this dictum was required by the case then before the Court; and a contrary doctrine seems to be now established in the

1839.

Don dem.
CHADBOURN
against
GREEN.

1899.

DOE dem.
CHADBORN
against
GREEN.

case where a year is granted in the first instance, before the introduction of the words "from year to year." *Quære*, where the grant is "from year to year," in the first instance? See the cases cited, 4 *Bac. Abr. Leases and Terms for Years*, (L), 3, p. 836. et seq. 7th ed. *Sykes v. Dixon*, post. p. 693.

Saturday,
January 26th.

DOE on the demise of WILLIS against ANN
BIRCHMORE and Another.

In ejectment for rooms, it appeared that *H.* and the lessor of the plaintiff were placed in a house by the proprietor, whose servants they had been, and occupied it in distinct portions, *H.* having the rooms in question to himself. *L.* came to reside with and attend upon *H.*, who died some time after, having devised his interest in the rooms to the lessor of the plaintiff. The original proprietor had died before *H.* *L.* continued to occupy the rooms, but was forcibly removed from one by the lessor of the plaintiff, and the ejectment brought for recovery of the others. The declaration being served upon *L.*, defendants (who professed to have a claim under the original proprietor) entered into the consent rule to defend as landlords, but, at the trial, gave no evidence of title in themselves.

Held that, *L.* having come in under *H.*, no title in him could be set up against the lessor of the plaintiff; that the lessor of the plaintiff shewed a sufficient title, none being proved by the defendants; and that they could not allege against him that he did not prove twenty years' adverse possession in himself and *H.*

Held, also, that *L.* was not a competent witness for the defendants.

EJECTMENT for messuages, &c., in *Surrey*. Declaration of *Trinity* term, 1896. On the trial before *Tindal C. J.* at the *Surrey* Spring assizes, 1897, the following facts appeared on the plaintiff's case. The action was brought to recover possession of rooms in a house at *Leatherhead*. Mr. *James Clear*, a farmer, built the house in 1808, and, in that year or 1809, placed in it two of his servants, *Hammond*, and *Willis* the lessor of the plaintiff. The house was divided into two parts having separate entrances; *Hammond* occupied one part, and *Willis* the other. No rent was paid. *Clear* died in 1814. *Hammond* continued in possession till 1821, when he died, leaving a will (made in the same year), by which he devised all his estate and interest in the house to *Willis*. Before *Hammond's* death, *Charles Lee* was brought into the house by *Hammond*, to reside with and take care of him, he being infirm. When *Hammond* died, *Lee* held possession of the rooms, three in number, which *Hammond* had occupied.

Willis,

Willis, about three years after *Hammond's* death, possessed himself forcibly of one of the rooms; and he afterwards brought this action for the other two. The declaration being served upon *Lee*, the defendants came in under the consent-rule, to defend as landlady and landlord. Evidence was given on their part of declarations made by *Mr. Clear*, shewing his intention that *Hammond* and *Willis* should occupy the house only during his life (or pleasure), and that after his death his own wife should have it. She, however, did not outlive him. The defendants proposed to call *Charles Lee*: but it was objected that he, as the tenant in possession, had an interest in defeating *Willis's* title; and on this ground the witness was rejected. The defendants did not give any evidence of title in themselves. The Lord Chief Justice was of opinion that a sufficient case was made out to support the action, the defendants not shewing any title; and he directed a verdict for the plaintiff, giving leave to move to enter a nonsuit. *Platt*, in the ensuing term, obtained a rule to shew cause why a nonsuit should not be entered, or why there should not be a new trial by reason of the rejection of evidence.

1839.

—
Doe dem.
WILLIS
against
BIRCHMORE.

Channell now shewed cause. *Lee* was inadmissible. A tenant in possession has an interest which precludes him from giving evidence for the defendant: *Doe dem. Jones v. Wilde* (a). [Lord Denman C. J. The defendants will not dispute that, but will contend that *Lee* was a servant only, not a tenant.] He was in possession: the declaration in ejectment was served on him. The struggle on the part of the defendants was to maintain

(a) 5 Taunt. 183.

1839.

—
Doe dem.
Willis
against
Bischoff.

his possession: if they failed in the action, he would be turned out. *Tindal* C. J. says, in *Doe dem. Teynham v. Tyler* (a): "The tenant in possession, in ejectment, could not be called to prove the title of the defendant under whom he claims to hold; nor could the landlord be called to prove the title of the tenant who defended the possession." Then, on the case as proved, no answer is given to the plaintiff's claim. *Hammond* and *Willis* occupied the house from 1808 downwards. *Hammond* died in 1821, devising all his interest to *Willis*. *Lee* had come in previously for the mere purpose of attending upon *Hammond*. He could have no right in the premises as against *Hammond*, and therefore none as against his devisee. As to the defendants, if they had shewn any title derived by them from *Clear*, as heirs at law, or by devise, their case would have been different, though it could not have prevailed against a twenty years' adverse possession. But no title was proved on their part; they were mere strangers: the verdict therefore, is right.

Platt and *Shee*, contra. To render a witness inadmissible, it must be shewn that he has a legal interest in the event of the cause, not a mere bias. In *Doe dem. Jones v. Wilde* (b) the witness came to prove a legal interest in himself as tenant; and in *Doe dem. Lord Teynham v. Tyler* (a) the witness was to have supported an estate out of which his own was carved. *Lee* was called to establish a case which would have shewn that he occupied only by permission. *Willis* had no pretence for treating *Lee* as his tenant. The defendants could not

(a) 6 Bing. 390.

(b) 5 Taunt. 183.

resist this action as being themselves tenants : but, as the actual occupier acknowledged himself to hold merely in subordination to them, they, the owners of the land, though not properly his landlords, might come in under the consent-rule, availing themselves of the fiction of law which, in ejectment, lets in the party really interested to defend. It was as if ejectment had been brought against a servant left by his master to take care of a house : the master might defend as landlord ; and could it be said that the servant was incapable of being a witness ?

As to the case proved. A plaintiff in ejectment must recover on the strength of his own title. *Willis* came in by permission ; and there was no evidence that that permission did not continue till the bringing of the action. It is contended that *Lee* would have had no title as against *Hammond* ; but, assuming that to be so, *Hammond* is dead, and could not transmit any title by devise. And the defendants do not claim under *Lee*. [*Cole-ridge J.* The defendants appear to have been strangers to the tenant, and had no right to come in under the landlord's rule.] If the lessor of the plaintiff relies on twenty years' possession, he must couple the holding by *Hammond* from the time of *Clear's* death in 1814 with the occupation after *Hammond's* death. But then the twenty years' possession ought to have been uninterrupted ; and that does not appear to have been the case as to the rooms held by *Lee*. *Willis* did not enter upon any part of those rooms immediately on *Hammond's* death ; and it does not appear that *Lee* ever acknowledged a holding under *Willis*. But, supposing that there was an uninterrupted possession, of which *Willis* might avail himself, from the death of *Clear*, that pos-

1839.

—
Dox dem.
WILLIS
against
BIRCHMORE.

1839.

DOE dem.
WILLIS
against
BIRCHMORE.

session was not adverse to the right owner at the time when stat. 3 & 4 W. 4. c. 27. passed; and therefore, if *Willis* had been in full enjoyment of these premises, the owner might have brought ejectment against him within five years after the passing of the act, by sect. 15; *Doe dem. Burgess v. Thompson (a)*. Besides, a party cannot, under the act, avail himself of a possession formerly enjoyed, but determined before the act passed; *Doe dem. Thompson v. Thompson (b)*; and here *Willis* was out of possession of all the rooms now claimed, from the death of *Hammond* at least.

Lord DENMAN C. J. The argument on the statute is inapplicable. The point as to adverse possession might have been raised as between the lessor of the plaintiff and the real owner; but here the defendants appear as strangers, who went to trial hoping to shew a title paramount, but failed. Then the question is, whether the lessor of the plaintiff shewed any title. *Lee* was in, whether as tenant or as servant, under *Hammond*, or his devisee, the lessor of the plaintiff, and could not set up title in himself as against either. The lessor of the plaintiff, then, had a *prima facie* title. *Lee*, if his evidence had been admitted, might have got rid of that: but it was objected that *Lee* could not be called, because he stood in the situation of a tenant in possession, and it was not competent to the defendants who, on the evidence, were mere strangers, to deny that he was such tenant. The defence was a defence of his possession; if it failed, *Lee* would be turned out. It is as if notice to quit had been given to a coachman occupying a gentleman's stables,

(a) 5 A. & E. 532.

(b) 6 A. & E. 721.

and

and a third person had undertaken, as the coachman's master, to defend the coachman's possession, but it had turned out that no relation of master and servant existed between them. Here, if *Lee* had been servant to the defendants, his possession would have been theirs, and he could have had no personal interest in defeating the action; but it appears that he is in fact not their servant. Then, to get rid of the objection, they propose calling him to prove that he is their servant: but to insist on doing this is arguing in a circle.

LITLEDALE J. Suppose that *Hammond*, in his lifetime, had gone from the premises, leaving *Lee* there, and had afterwards returned, and demanded possession, and *Lee* had kept him out. In an action of ejectment against *Lee*, any proof of possession by *Hammond*, prior to that of *Lee*, would have entitled *Hammond* to recover: and his devisee is in the same situation. As against *Willis*, *Lee* had no right. *Willis* is not obliged to carry his title back twenty years; he claims as having had possession and the right to it. As to the question of evidence, *Lee* disclaimed any interest in the premises; and on that ground it was said he might be a witness, because the owner of the premises, in a case like this, might use the evidence of his servant residing on them. But it did not appear, without *Lee's* evidence, that he was servant to these defendants. If they had been occupiers of premises to which the rooms in question were an appendage, and had put *Lee* into them, the case would have been different: but nothing of that kind appeared; and, if the plaintiff recovered in this action, *Lee* would certainly be removed. The point is not quite clear; but I think he was properly rejected.

1839.

DOE dem.
WILLIS
against
BIRCHMORE.

1839.

—
Dox dem.
Willis
against
BIRCHMORE.

WILLIAMS J. The act 3 & 4 W. 4. c. 27. does not apply. If *Hammond* had brought this ejectment against *Lee*, he must have recovered; and *Willis* and *Hammond* are identified. Then can the present defendants maintain the possession of *Lee*? It comes to the same question. It is in vain to say that the defendants do not treat *Lee* as a tenant; for, by the consent rule, they say that he is so: and, if he could not have made good his possession against *Hammond*, neither can the defendants maintain it against *Willis*. They have treated him as the tenant in possession; and he must be considered as such tenant in the ordinary sense, and with reference to all the circumstances of the case.

COLERIDGE J. I think that the Lord Chief Justice's ruling was right in both respects. *Hammond* was in possession; whether he had had an adverse possession for twenty years or not was a question entirely immaterial as between him and *Lee*, who came in by him. *Hammond* would have recovered in ejectment against *Lee*, in respect of the privity between them: and the case would have been the same if *Willis* had brought ejectment against *Lee* the day after *Hammond*'s death. Otherwise, if I am devisee, and the devisor has left a servant on the premises who disputes the possession with me, I am bound to shew the devisor's title; a proposition too monstrous to be contended for. Then do the defendants stand in any different position from *Lee*? They come in under the consent-rule; and therefore it is said the lessor of the plaintiff must shew title. But that is a misunderstanding of the consent-rule, which was introduced by stat. 11 G. 2. c. 19. ss. 12, 13., with a view merely to the common case of landlord and tenant, and to prevent recoveries in fraud of the landlord. That provision,

provision, however, has been construed liberally, and extended so as to let in the heir, mortgagee, or devisee, in trust : but in each of those cases there is a privity between the party let in and the person, whether ancestor, mortgagor, or devisor, under whom the tenant claims.

Where, however, the attempt has been to let in a person who, by this means, would throw upon the lessor of the plaintiff an onus of proving title, which, as between him and the party let in, he ought not to be subject to, the rule has been discharged ; or the party coming in has been precluded from setting up his own adverse title, and forced to stand in the same situation as the tenant in whose stead he appeared : *Doe dem. Knight v. Lady Smythe (a)*. If this strictness were not observed, a party entering into the consent-rule might, though a stranger, put himself in the favourable position of disputing possession and obliging the adverse party to prove title. Applying these observations to the present case, it follows that, as *Lee* was on the premises in question by the permission of *Hammond*, the present defendants, who have no connection with *Hammond*, must stand in the same situation as *Lee* would. As to the point of evidence ; *Lee* was served with the declaration as tenant in possession : the effect of the consent-rule is to let in another person to shew that such possession was rightful. Can that be done by means of *Lee* ? His title is defended in the action ; if the defence fails he is turned out. In truth, he is called as a witness to support his own possession ; and therefore he is clearly incompetent. If it were suggested that a declaration had been left with a servant as tenant in possession, in the absence of his

1839.

DOE dem.
WILLIS
against
BIRCHMORE.

(a) 4 M. & S. 347. See *Doe dem. Buller v. Mills*, 2 A. & E. 17.

1839.

Doz dem.
WILLIS
against
BIRCHMORE.

master, the Court might probably, under such circumstances, if brought to their notice, hold that there had been no proper service; but this question is not raised.

Rule discharged.

Monday,
January 28th.

The QUEEN *against* The Mayor of the Borough
of EYE.

In the Matter of NEOBARD.

A householder is entitled to be on the burgess list of a borough, under stat. 5 & 6 W. 4. c. 76. s. 9., as an occupier, if he resides in his house but has let a room in the house to a tenant, who does not sleep there, and can be put out upon a week's warning.

And, where the mayor and assessors had expunged the name of such a party from the

ROGERS had obtained a rule in *Michaelmas* term 1837, calling on the mayor of the borough of *Eye*, in *Suffolk*, to shew cause why a mandamus should not issue, commanding him to insert the name of *John Neobard* in the burgess roll of the said borough.

The affidavit in support of the rule stated that *Neobard*, on 30th *August* 1837, and for three complete years immediately next preceding, had continually occupied a house within the borough, and during such occupation had been, and still was, an inhabitant householder residing in that house; that he had been rated for it to all poor rates, and had paid such rates, and all borough rates payable under stat. 5 & 6 W. 4. c. 76. The

burgess roll, and the party in the term next following obtained a rule for a mandamus to the mayor to insert his name, the Court made the rule absolute, directing the mandamus to the mayor generally, though the mayor who expunged the name had ceased to be mayor before the rule nisi was obtained, and no application had been made to the present mayor, and though the year to which the list belonged had expired before making the rule absolute.

The mandamus to replace a name on the list, grantable under stat. 7 W. 4. § 1 *Vict.* c. 78. s. 24., is not peremptory in the first instance.

The tenant and occupier of a house underlet the cellar, which was beneath and had an internal communication with the house. The under-tenant used the cellar as a warehouse, and was separately rated to the poor for it. Held, that the tenant could not qualify as a burgess under stat. 5 & 6 W. 4. c. 76. s. 9., for the house independently of the cellar.

Two tenements, described as houses, were under the same roof, and opened upon a common passage and staircase. There was no outer door opening to the street: Held, that the rated occupier of one such tenement was qualified to be a burgess under stat. 5 & 6 W. 4. c. 76. s. 9.

affidavit

affidavit also negated any disqualification of *Neobard*; and stated that his name, with the description of the house, &c., was in the overseer's list for the year to commence 1st *November* 1837; that his claim was objected to; that, on the revision before *John Manning*, the then mayor, and the assessor, in *October* 1837, it appeared, by *Neobard's* cross examination, that he let one of the rooms of the house to a tenant at a yearly rent, but that the tenant did not sleep in the room; that *Neobard* could get rid of him at any time by giving a week's notice; and that there was an internal communication between the room let and the rest of the house, by means of a door opening into a passage in the house. The affidavit then stated that the mayor and assessors thereupon determined that the qualification was not proved to their satisfaction, and the mayor struck the name out of the list. That at the time of swearing the affidavit (17th *November* 1837) *John Clouting* was mayor (a).

The affidavits in answer stated that *Neobard*, on cross examination, swore that the tenant was not a lodger. It also appeared, by an affidavit sworn 29th *December* 1837 and re-sworn 3d *January* 1838, that at those times *John Clouting* was mayor, and that no application had been made to him to insert the name of *Neobard* in the burgess list.

B. Andrews and *Byles* now shewed cause. First, the burgess roll on which the applicant seeks to have his name enrolled is not in existence. [Lord *Denman* C. J. We constantly make orders in the case of church-

(a) It was stated, in the course of argument, that Mr. *Manning* had died.

wardens,

1839.

—
The QUEEN
against
The Mayor of
EVL.

1839.

—
 The Queen
 against
 The Mayor of
 Eves.

wardens, where a similar objection might be urged: if it could prevail, there would be unlimited licence.] Stat. 7 W. 4. and 1 Vict. c. 78. s. 24. enables the Court, upon application as there directed, to enquire into the applicant's title, and order the mayor to insert his name on the roll; but then the party is entitled to vote and act only as if his name had been put on that burgess roll by the mayor and assessors. He can merely act as burgess for the year to which that burgess roll belongs. [Lord Denman C. J. Wherever wrong is done, we shall always assume that it must be set right.] The present mayor is no party to the expunging of the name; nor has he any control over the roll in question; nor is he the party to whom application was made. [Lord Denman C. J. The mandamus sought for is to be directed to the mayor of Eves; there is always a mayor.] Secondly, the applicant was not qualified under sect. 9 of stat. 5 & 6 W. 4. c. 76. He has not "occupied any house, warehouse, counting-house, or shop" within the borough, but only part of a house. That section, indeed, does not use the word "actually," like stat. 1 W. 4. c. 18. s. 1., which was relied on in *Rex v. St. Nicholas, Rochester* (a); but the word "occupy" is material; and it is not satisfied by a partial occupation; otherwise a single house might give a qualification to as many persons as it contained rooms. The Court will support the finding of the mayor and assessors as to the fact unless it be manifestly against evidence, as in the case of a verdict.

(a) 5 B. & Ad. 219. See *Rex v. St. Nicholas, Colchester*, 2 A. & E. 599; *Rex v. St. Giles-in-the-Fields*, 4 A. & E. 495.

Rogers, *contra*. First, as to the objection that the year for which the roll was made has expired. [Lord Denman C. J. There is nothing in that objection.] The second question is, whether a householder who lets off a part of his house ceases to be occupier, for, as to *Neobard* having sworn that the tenant was not a lodger, that, on comparing the affidavits, clearly shews no more than that the tenant did not sleep in the house. *Rex v. St. Nicholas, Rochester* (a), was expressly decided on the word "actual," in 1 W. 4. c. 18. s. 1., which, the Court held, made constructive occupation insufficient. But under stat. 6 G. 4. c. 57. s. 2., where the word "actual" is not used, a constructive occupation, by living in part and underletting part, is sufficient; *Rex v. Ditchet* (b). The judgment of the majority of the Court in that case was confirmed in *Rex v. Great Bentley* (c). The same point was expressly ruled, as to the qualification of voters for aldermen of London, under stat. 11 G. 1. c. 18. ss. 7, 8., in *Fludier v. Lombe* (d). Under the *Irish Reform Act*, stat. 2 & 3 W. 4. c. 88. s. 5., one qualification of electors for cities, being counties of cities or towns, is the holding or occupying, as tenant or owner, any house, warehouse, counting-house, or shop; and under this act it was decided in *Duigenan's Case* (e), by ten *Irish* judges against one, that a householder, who had let to a lodger part of a 10l. house, and occupied the remainder, which remainder was not worth 10l., had a right to vote. There *Crampton J.*, who delivered the judgment of the ma-

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The Mayor of
Ely.

(a) 5 B. & Ad. 219. (b) 9 B. & C. 176. (c) 10 B. & C. 520.

(d) Ca. K. B., Temp. Hardw. 307.

(e) 1 Alcock's Registry Cases Reserved, 114.

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The Mayor of
EVE.

jority, after citing *Phillips's Case* (a), used the following language. "The claimant must be the occupier of an entire house, and he must in contemplation of law be the sole occupier of that house; not that he must be a solitary resident therein, but that he alone occupies as owner or tenant, and that all the other residents are such only by his permission, and under his authority. The owner or tenant of the house, he who has the dominion over the outer door, who is the permanent possessor of the outer door, 'the householder,' and in that capacity liable to the payment of rents and rates, may be thus deemed to be the *legal occupier* of the whole house, though certain parts of the house are in *fact* occupied by *lodgers*. These are all but inmates of the house, more or less, under the control of the householder, and they are not occupiers within the statute. There can be but one occupier of a house, in the legal acceptation of the term entitled to register. If indeed the letting to lodgers be of such a character as to make each tenement a separate house, it may be otherwise, as where a portion of a house is cut off from the residue, and provided with a separate entrance, with exclusive dominion over that entrance; but where the house (as here) is one house, there can be in legal language but one occupier; he must be the sole occupier; but he may occupy by himself, his family, and such inmates as he chooses to introduce in addition to his family."

Lord DENMAN C. J. There can be no doubt whatever upon the question. The rule must be made absolute.

a) 1 *Alcock's Registry Cases Reserved*, 20.

LITLEDALE, WILLIAMS, and COLERIDGE, Js., concurred.

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The Mayor of
EYE.

Lord DENMAN C. J., in answer to a question from Counsel, said that the rule must follow the terms of the rule nisi, and that the case must be considered to stand as at the time of obtaining such rule nisi.

“ Ordered, that a writ of mandamus issue, directed to the mayor of the borough of *Eye*, in the county of *Suffolk*, commanding him to insert the name of *John Neobard* upon the burgess roll of the said borough.”

The QUEEN against The Same.

In the Matter of ROBERT LAIT.

A RULE nisi was also obtained in *Michaelmas* term, 1837, against the same mayor, for a mandamus, calling upon him to insert the name of *Robert Lait* in the burgess roll of the same borough.

B. Andrews and *Byles* now shewed cause, and *Rogers* supported the rule. The objection to *Lait's* qualification was, that he had executed a conveyance, by bill of sale, of the house in respect of which he claimed. *The Court* was of opinion that the bill of sale did not, by its terms, convey the house from the assignor, and that his qualification was good. A peremptory mandamus was asked for on behalf of the prosecutor, and sect. 24 of stat. 7 W. 4. and 1 Vict. c. 78. was referred to, which enacts that it shall be lawful for a person whose name
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1839.
 ———
 The QUEEN
 against
 The Mayor of
 EYE.

has been expunged to apply "before the end of the term then next following, to the Court of King's Bench for a mandamus" to insert his name, "and thereupon for the Court to inquire into the title;" and, "if the Court shall award such mandamus," the mayor shall be bound to insert the name, &c. [Lord *Denman* C. J. The mandamus there meant must be a mandamus in the usual form, calling for a return. It would be very inconvenient for the Court to try the question on affidavits.] If the act does not give a peremptory mandamus in the first instance, a party whose name is expunged must almost always fail of having it restored during the year. The revision taking place in *October*, he cannot move for a mandamus till the *Michaelmas* term; and, if the return gives rise to an issue in fact, the trial, if at the assizes, cannot take place till the Spring, and then there may be questions of law raised, which, when there is much business before the Court, cannot for a long time be disposed of; and, until final judgment on the whole record, there can be no peremptory mandamus: *Regina v. Baldwin* (a). [*Lit- tledale* J. We cannot make the state of business before the Court a reason for our decision on this point.] There have been instances in which a mandamus has issued immediately, in the case of an annual office. [Lord *Denman* C. J. Even in such cases, though we often grant the writ in the first instance, it is not a peremptory mandamus.]

Per Curiam.

Rule absolute for a mandamus,
 (as in the preceding case).

(a) 8 A. & E. 947.

The

The QUEEN against the Same.

In the Matter of UNGLESS.

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The Mayor of
EYE.

A RULE nisi had been obtained as in the two preceding cases. The objection to the prosecutor's qualification was, that he had not occupied, and been rated for, any house, &c., according to stat. 5 & 6 W. 4. c. 76. s. 9. The material facts, as they appeared on the prosecutor's affidavit in support of the rule were, that, in *December* 1835, "this deponent let to his son, *William Henry Ungless*, a cellar which was underneath the house in respect of which this deponent had been and still is rated as aforesaid, and also that there was an internal communication between the said house and cellar, and that the said *W. H. Ungless* occupied and used the said cellar as a warehouse, and was rated to the poor of the said borough and parish of *Eye* in respect thereof."

B. Andrews, with whom was *Byles*, now shewed cause. *Ungless* underlet part of the house; and did not continue to occupy that part. His son was not a lodger, but occupied the cellar apart as a warehouse. Even if the occupation was the father's, he has not been rated for the cellar.

Rogers, contra. This is not like the ordinary underletting of a room. The house and cellar are the subjects of a several and independent occupation, the one as a dwelling, the other as a warehouse. The prosecutor, therefore, was the occupier of a perfect house, putting the cellar out of consideration. It is as if there were stables communicating with the residence by a covered passage;

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The Mayor of
EYE.

passage; the house would not the less be an entire house because it had that addition. No difficulty arises here as under the settlement acts, 59 G. 3. c. 50., 6 G. 4. c. 57., and 1 W. 4. c. 18., because the words "separate and distinct," which are material under those statutes, do not occur in stat. 5 & 6 W. 4. c. 76. s. 9. [*Coleridge J.* Do you say that it would make any difference if the under-tenant occupied the cellar as a dwelling, or slept and took his meals at the stables? Can the nature of what the householder retains be altered by the use made of what is separated?] In either case the householder would be rated, and qualify, in respect of the house. [*Coleridge J.* Then you would say the same if the ground floor were occupied as the cellar is here, or as the stables are supposed to be.] If it were let as chambers, the case would be the same. If the internal communication connected all the parts as one house, it would be otherwise. But here the parts are used for entirely distinct purposes. *Rex v. Great and Little Usworth and North Biddick (a)* is a stronger case than this. [*Coleridge J.* If the ground floor were let to a person who used it as a warehouse, and the second to a person who used it as a shop, would the third still be a house?] Under the circumstances relied upon here, it would.

Lord DENMAN C. J. It is very difficult to say that, after the letting of this cellar, a complete house was still left, notwithstanding the internal communication. If we were to decide so I do not know where we should stop; and a great encouragement would be given to the splitting of votes. The rule must be discharged.

(a) 5 A. & E. 261.

LITTLEDALE, WILLIAMS, and COLERIDGE Js. con-
 curred.

1839.

Rule discharged (a)

The QUEEN
 against
 The Mayor of
 EYE.

The QUEEN *against* The Same.

In the Matter of EVANS.

THIS was a similar application. The prosecutor claimed in respect of a house: the objection was that he occupied only part. It appeared by the prosecutor's affidavit that "the house so occupied by deponent as aforesaid adjoined another house, each house being under the same roof, and which said other house had been for the last three years and upwards previous to the last day of *August* 1837, and still is, unoccupied; and that there was an entrance to the said houses by means of a passage into which the doors of each of the said houses opened, both on the right and on the left, and that there was also but one staircase to the said houses, which, in case the said other house had been occupied, would have been used by the tenant thereof in common with deponent to get to their respective sleeping rooms." He was rated to the poor in respect of the premises so occupied by him.

B. Andrews, with whom was *Byles*, now shewed cause, and contended that the premises on each side of the passage formed only parts of one house, not resembling chambers, because neither tenant had any outer door of his own.

(b) See *Rex v. Henley upon Thames*, 6 A. & E. 294.

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The Mayor of
EVE.

Rogers, contra. A tenement is not the less a dwelling-house because it opens upon a common passage or common staircase; *Rex v. Bailey (a)*. [*Littledale J.* If there be no landlord residing in a house, half a dozen different persons may be stated to have dwelling-houses within it.] *Kitchen on Courts Leet, &c.*, 92 (b), tit. *Inmates*, is one of the authorities shewing what the older law was on this subject. [*Littledale J.* It does not appear by the affidavits here that there was any outer door opening to the street. Lord *Denman C. J.* The doors opening on a common passage made no difference. *Coleridge J.* The passage was no more than part of the street.]

Per Curiam,

Rule absolute.

(a) *Moody's C. C.* 23.

(b) *Jurisdictions*; or, *The Lawful Authority of Courts Leet, &c.* 5th ed.

Monday,
January 28th.

The QUEEN against HOOKER.

Quo warranto information for exercising a borough office.

The ground of prosecution was, that the officers presiding at the election were not

qualified. Defendant pleaded that he was duly elected. Pending the information, stat. 7 W. 4. & 1 Vict. c. 78. passed. Prosecutor thereupon moved for a stay of proceedings, and payment of costs (down to the passing of the act) by defendant, under sect. 20.

Rule absolute, although defendant suggested that he had a defence independent of the statute (not, however, specifying its nature), and offered to pay all costs of the trial if he failed in establishing such defence.

(a) See *Rex v. Brame*, 4 A. & E. 664., in which a rule for a quo warranto against the mayor was made absolute at the same time, and under the same circumstances.

duly

duly elected. While the information was depending (*July 17th, 1837*), the royal assent was given to stat. 7 *W. 4.* & 1 *Vict. c. 78.*, to amend stat. 5 & 6 *W. 4. c. 76.* The ground of the present information being that the bailiffs before whom the defendant was elected were not good returning officers, the relator, in *Michaelmas* term, 1837, obtained a rule to shew cause why the proceedings should not be stayed, and costs paid to him, according to stat. 7 *W. 4.* & 1 *Vict. c. 78. s. 20.* The affidavit in support of the rule stated that, as the relator was advised, the statute having now passed, the election was made valid, and the act (*a*) would be an answer to any further proceeding on his part.

1839.

The QUEEN
against
HOOKER.

Ogle now shewed cause. The act ought not to be held compulsory on defendants if they think that they have a defence independent of sect. 1 (*b*), and do not wish for a stay of proceedings. If the case goes to trial, and the defendant fails on the merits, the costs now claimed will not be lost; and the relator will recover, not only those, but the costs of trial, which the Judge will perceive to have been incurred by his not now availing himself of the statute. The defendant is willing that the rule should be discharged on condition of his paying all costs of the trial, if he fails in establishing a defence independent of the act.

Kelly and *O'Malley*, *contra*. If it appeared, on a trial, that the objection was cured by statute, the Judge would

(*a*) Sect. 1.

(*b*) The defendant put in an affidavit setting out his pleas, but not stating the particular nature of his defence.

1839.

—
The QUEEN
against
HOOKER.

not, by reason of any arrangement between the parties, go into a long enquiry as to merits which would have become immaterial. [*Coleridge* J. If the Judge said, "this is an idle question, and I will not try it," would that entitle you to costs?] It would not. And the defendant does not even suggest by his affidavit what defence he has, independent of the statute. If any hardship results, it is the act of the legislature; and, if individuals suffer, defendants in general are benefited. The words of sect. 20 exclude any option on their part. The relator, here, applies in proper time, and is entitled to relief, according to *Regina v. W. Roberts* (a).

Lord DENMAN C. J. You ask for costs only down to the passing of the act; and that application is within the authority of *Regina v. W. Roberts* (a). The rule must be absolute.

LITLEDALE, WILLIAMS, and COLERIDGE Js. concurred.

Rule absolute.

(a) 7 A. & E. 441.

Tuesday,
January 29th.

The QUEEN against HARRISON GORDON Codd,
Esquire.

When an order has been made on a putative father for the payment of a sum named

so long as the bastard is chargeable, a magistrate, under stat. 49 G. 3. c. 68. s. 3., is bound to enforce the order by commitment, on proof that the sum is in arrear and the child chargeable; and he has no jurisdiction to enquire whether the sum is too large, or whether it is likely to be all applied to the maintenance of the child.

BY an order of two justices of *Middlesex*, 21st May 1831, *James Woodard* was adjudged the reputed father of a bastard child, then chargeable, and likely to

continue

continue chargeable, to the parish of *St. John, Hackney*, and was ordered to pay the parish officers 13s. towards the maintenance of the child to the time of making the order, and 7s. weekly thenceforward, so long as the child should be chargeable to the parish; the mother to pay 6d. weekly, so long as the child should be chargeable, in case she should not nurse and take care of it. The child continuing chargeable, the churchwardens and overseers expended 7s. weekly towards its maintenance. *Woodard* reimbursed them a part: but, on 30th October 1837, he was in arrear 15l.; and he was thereupon, under warrant of a justice of *Middlesex*, brought before the defendant, who was the sitting magistrate at *Worship Street Police Office*, on 16th November 1837, to answer the churchwardens and overseers for his refusal to pay. On the hearing it was proved that the 15l. had been expended, and was owing from *Woodard*. *Woodard* refusing payment, the defendant was required to commit him for three months, with hard labour, unless he should sooner pay. Mr. *Codd* refused then to do so, but proposed to do it, if the guardians of the poor of the *Hackney* union (under whose management the poor of the parish were placed) would take the child from the mother and place it in the union workhouse, and, after deducting from the 7s. the expense of the maintenance of the child, place the residue for its benefit in a savings bank. The mother refused to part with the child; and the guardians of the union declined to take it from her. This was communicated to Mr. *Codd*, who then refused to commit *Woodard*. The only excuse offered by *Woodard* before the magistrates was that 7s. a week was more than was necessary to be paid by him towards the maintenance of

1839.

The QUEEN
against
Codd.

1839. the child, and that the mother had borne an illegitimate child twelve years before.

*The Queen
against
Codd.*

On affidavit of the above facts, *Platt*, in *Hilary* term, 1838, obtained a rule nisi for a mandamus commanding *Mr. Codd* to apprehend and commit *Woodard* to be kept to hard labour for three months, unless he sooner paid the money.

The defendant, in answer, made affidavit that it appeared to him that the 7*s.* was expended generally in support of the mother and two bastards, and not solely or necessarily upon the child now in question; that, upon *Woodard* alleging this, *Mr. Codd* called upon the overseers and guardians to shew that the money was expended on the bastard named in the order: and that an assistant overseer of the parish thereupon swore that the money was paid over to the mother without requiring from her any account or voucher except her receipt. That the mother was then sworn; and that, upon her evidence (which was set forth), *Mr. Codd* was not satisfied that the money was expended on the bastard named in the order.

Erle now shewed cause. No statute authorises the exacting from a putative father more than is necessary for the maintenance of the child. Sect. 3 of stat. 49 G. 3. c. 68. enacts that, when such putative father is brought before a justice for not paying money pursuant to an order of maintenance, the justice shall commit the party, if he shall not pay such sum "as shall appear" to the justice to be due, "or shall not shew to such justice some reasonable and sufficient cause for not so doing." Properly nothing is due which is not requisite for the maintenance: and the facts here shew that the allowance ordered by the two magistrates covers expenses beyond the

the maintenance, and beyond what is requisite for that purpose. The other side must contend that the magistrate, when called on to commit, has no power to inquire into the application of the money. That was not the intention of the act. The policy of stat. 18 *Eliz. c. 3. s. 2.* was, in this respect, similar to that of stat. 49 *G. 3. c. 68. s. 3.*, and of stat. 4 & 5 *W. 4. c. 76. s. 76.*

1839.

The QUEEN
against
Codd.

Platt, contra, was stopped by the Court.

LORD DENMAN C. J. There is no reasonable doubt on this point. The putative father is to obey the order as long as the child is chargeable to the parish. If he chooses to pay less than is ordered, then, if that payment makes the child not chargeable, the order will not take effect. I do not think that the magistrate, who is called on to commit, can inquire whether the sum mentioned in the order be or be not too large: and there would be no end to the inquiry, if he had to ascertain whether the whole sum ordered had gone to the maintenance of the child. One might perhaps wish that there were some way of putting an end to the order when the relief ceased to be necessary: but it would be wrong in this Court to take such a power on itself.

LITLEDALE J. The order, while it is in force, must be obeyed.

WILLIAMS J. concurred.

COLERIDGE J. In effect, this is an attempt to repeal the order.

Rule absolute.

1839.

Tuesday,
January 29th.

The QUEEN *against* PECK and Others.

A count for conspiring to deceive and defraud divers of her Majesty's subjects, who should bargain with defendants for the sale of goods, of great quantities of such goods, without making payment, remuneration or satisfaction for the same, with intent to obtain profit and emolument to defendants (not stating the) ns)is b as not shewing that the conspiracy was for a purpose necessarily criminal.

But it is no objection that the count does not name the parties who were to have been defrauded.

A count charging that defendants, being indebted to divers persons, conspired to defraud them of the payment of such debts, and in pursuance of such conspiracy executed a false and fraudulent deed of bargain and sale and assignment of certain goods from two of themselves to a third, with intent thereby to obtain emolument to themselves, is bad for omitting to shew in what respect the deed was false and fraudulent.

ERROR from the Borough Court of Quarter Sessions, *Liverpool*. Indictment for conspiracy. The first count stated that the defendants, *Thomas Philip Peck*, *Joseph Peck*, and *Samuel Peck*, "falsely, unlawfully, and wickedly did conspire, combine, confederate, and agree amongst themselves to deceive and defraud, and to cause and procure to be deceived and defrauded, divers of her Majesty's liege subjects, who should bargain with the said *Thomas Philip Peck* and *Joseph Peck* for the sale of goods and merchandize, of great quantities of such goods and merchandize of the said subjects, of great value, to wit 2000*l.*, without making payment or other remuneration or satisfaction for the same, with intent to obtain and acquire to the said *Thomas Philip Peck* and *Joseph Peck* and *Samuel Peck* divers sums of money and other profit and emolument; to the evil example" &c., and against the peace &c. Second count: that the said *T. P. Peck*, *J. Peck*, and *S. Peck*, on &c., at &c. " (they the said *T. P. Peck* and *J. Peck* having theretofore been, and then and there being, in partnership trade together, and being then and there indebted to divers persons in divers large sums of money," to wit 10,000*l.*), "falsely, unlawfully, and wickedly did conspire, combine, confederate, and agree amongst themselves to deceive and defraud the said creditors of them the said *T. P. Peck* and *J. Peck* of payment of their said debts.

And

And the jurors" &c. present "that the said *T. P. Peck*, *J. Peck*, and *S. Peck* afterwards, to wit on" &c., at &c., "in pursuance of and according to the said conspiracy, combination, confederacy, and agreement amongst themselves had, falsely and unlawfully and wickedly did make and execute, and cause and procure to be made and executed, a certain false and fraudulent deed of bargain and sale and assignment of certain fixtures, stock in trade, and good will, of great value, of and belonging to the said *T. P. Peck* and *J. Peck*, by and from the said *T. P. Peck* and *J. Peck* to the said *S. Peck*, for divers false and fraudulent considerations, with intent thereby to obtain and procure to the said *T. P. Peck*, *J. Peck*, and *S. Peck* divers sums of money and other emolument, to the great damage of the said creditors, to the evil example" &c. The defendants were convicted. The writ of error was argued in this term (a).

1839.

THE QUEEN
against
PECK.

Murphy, for the defendant. The indictment is too uncertain. An indictment must be so far precise that the party may know what charge he has to answer, and may be able to plead his acquittal or conviction upon it to a future indictment on the same facts: 4 *Hawk. P. C.* p. 29., Book 2. c. 25. s. 59. (b). Several instances are there given of charges which are too general, as "having spoken divers false and scandalous words against *J. S.* being mayor of such a place;" or that defendant was a "common defamer," "common conspirator, and such like." So, in sect. 71 (p. 38. (c), of the same book) it

(a) January 28th. Before Lord Denman C. J., *Littledale*, *Williams*, and *Coleridge* Js.

(b) 7th (*Leach's*) ed. Vol. ii. p. 312. *Curwood's* ed.

(c) Page 319. *Curwood's* ed.

1839.

—
The QUEEN
against
PECK.

is said that “those general indictments which anciently seem to have been allowed for suffering divers bakers to bake, &c. against the assize, &c. or for distraining divers persons without cause, &c. have by the later authorities been holden insufficient for their uncertainty in not naming some persons in particular who were so suffered to bake, or distrained.” *Rex v. Roberts (a)*, *Rex v. Gibbs (b)*, *Rex v. Gilbert (c)*, *Rex v. Robe (d)* are also instances of improper generality. If the indictment charges an offence committed against persons who cannot be known, it should state that they are unknown to the jurors; *Rex v. Gibbs (b)*. In *Rex v. Gill (e)*, which may be cited for the Crown, the indictment was held good, because it shewed a completely formed conspiracy to cheat certain individuals who were named, though it did not state the means by which the conspiracy was to be carried into effect. [*Coleridge J.* Here is a conspiracy stated, to defraud future customers.] The indictment should have added, “to the jurors unknown.” [*Coleridge J.* They were not known to any body at that time.] If the indictment does not set out any overt acts, it should at least shew that the conspiracy was to effect something by specific means, which were illegal, as by false pretences. That was done in *Rex v. Gill (e)*. The indictment in *Rex v. Fowle (g)* charged that the defendants had conspired “to cheat and defraud the just and lawful creditors” of *Fowle*; and Lord *Tenterden* held the count “much too general,” saying, “It does not state what was intended to be done, or the persons to be defrauded.” In the present case, the con-

(a) 1 *Show.* 389.(c) 1 *East*, 583.(e) 2 *B. & Ald.* 204.(b) 1 *Str.* 497.(d) 2 *Str.* 999.(g) 4 *Car. & P.* 592.

spiracy

1839.

The QUEEN
against
PECK.

spiracy may have been merely not to pay debts. And, as the indictment does not charge a conspiracy to do any thing criminal in itself, it ought to shew some subsequent overt act amounting to an offence; *Rex v. Seward* (a). All that appears here is a combination to get goods without payment, for the purpose of gaining by them. [*Littledale J.* A conspiracy to defraud is stated.] The words, it is true, are "to deceive and defraud" "divers of her Majesty's liege subjects," "of great quantities of such goods:" but, as other words are added, the context must be looked to; and that is "without making payment" for the same. It is consistent with the allegations, that the defendants may have endeavoured to get the goods to sell on commission. The conspiracy itself, therefore, is not shewn to have been criminal. In *Rex v. De Berenger* (b) the indictment, which was held good, set forth a conspiracy to procure certain results, by means which it was unlawful to use, whether they took effect or not; and the names of the persons to be affected were not material. It was said by *Bayley J.* that, in such a case, "the conspiracy is the thing which constitutes the crime." Here, the conspiracy itself is not a crime; the criminality, if any, would result from the manner in which the conspiracy was carried into effect upon the persons who were its objects. The doctrine generally received that, in conspiracy, the gist of the offence is the conspiring, as it is stated in 2 *Hawk. P. C.* 119. book. I. c. 72. s. 2. (c), seems properly referable to the class of conspiracies defined in stat. 33 *Ed.* 1. stat. 2. It has been suggested, as to naming parties, that future customers, being unknown, could not be

(a) 1 A. & E. 706.

(b) 3 M. & S. 67.

(c) 7th ed. Vol. i. p. 444. *Curwood's* ed.

named;

1839.

The QUEEN
against
PECK.

named; but at least the parties mentioned in the second count, to whom *T. P. Peck* and *J. Peck* were already indebted, might have been specified. The charge in the second count, of making a fraudulent deed, imputes no offence; for it is not stated that the object was to defraud the creditors.

Cottingham, contra. The indictment contains, in substance, a charge of conspiracy to defraud. In *Rex v. Seward* (a) Lord Denman C. J. says, "An indictment for conspiracy ought to shew, either that it was for an unlawful purpose, or to effect a lawful purpose by unlawful means" (b). [Lord Denman C. J. I do not think the antithesis very correct.] Here the indictment sufficiently alleges an offence, in the part charging a conspiracy; and a statement of unlawful means is not necessary. In *Rex v. Eccles* (c) the indictment was for conspiring by indirect means to prevent *H. B.* from exercising the trade of a tailor. It was objected that the means ought to have been specified: but Lord Mansfield said, "The conspiracy is stated, and its object: it is not necessary that the means should be stated." And Buller J. added, "If there be any objection, it is that the indictment states too much: it would have been good certainly if it had not added, 'by indirect means;' and that will not make it bad." Here, if the first count is good independently of the words "without making payment," those needless words will not prejudice; *Rex v. Phillips* (d). *Rex v. De Berenger* (e) shews that the conspiracy is that which constitutes the crime, and that

(a) 1 A. & E. 713.

(b) See also *Rex v. Jones*, 4 B. & Ad. 349.(c) Note (d) to *Rex v. Turner*, 13 East, 230. S. C. 1 Leach C. C. 274.

(d) 3 Camp. 75.

(e) 3 M. & E. 67.

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the offence is complete when there is a complete concert to bring about the illegal purpose. The language of *Bayley* and *Dampier* Js. is strong on this point. So also are the judgments of *Abbott* C. J., *Bayley*, and *Holroyd* Js., in *Rex v. Gill* (a). *Rex v. Fowle* (b) was not a precisely similar case to this; Lord *Tenterden* there did not absolutely decide that the indictment was bad; and the sufficiency of it became ultimately immaterial, because the defendants were acquitted. If the first count here were bad for the reasons alleged, the second is sufficient, for that states an unlawful act done in pursuance of the conspiracy.

1839.

—
The QUEEN
against
PECK.

Murphy, in reply. The indictment in *Rex v. Biers* (c) was held bad, though it contained a count (brought to the notice of the Court in argument) averring that the defendants conspired “by divers false, artful, and subtle stratagems and contrivances, as much as in them lay to injure, oppress, aggrieve, and impoverish *E. W.* and *T. W.*, and to cheat and defraud them of their monies.” In *J’Anson v. Stuart* (d) it was held an insufficient justification of a libel calling plaintiff a swindler, to plead that he had been “guilty of deceiving and defrauding divers persons, with whom he had had dealings.” Much of the reasoning of *Ashhurst* and *Buller* Js. there is applicable to this case. *Rex v. Hamilton* (e) shews what information the prosecutor may be reasonably expected to give in a count for conspiracy; and the first count there, which *Little-dale* J. held to be a proper one, stated a conspiracy

(a) 2 B. & Ald. 204.

(b) 4 Car. & P. 592.

(c) 1 A. & E. 327.

(d) 1 T. R. 748.

(e) 7 Car. & P. 448.

1839.

The QUEEN
against
PECK.

to obtain goods by false pretences &c. from persons named. Whatever might have been the effect of the first count in this case independently of the words "without making payment," those words, being inserted, cannot be overlooked.

Cur. adv. vult.

Lord DENMAN C. J. now delivered the judgment of the Court. After reading the first count of the indictment, his Lordship said,

It is objected that this count does not state what particular creditors the defendants meant to defraud. But we are of opinion that there is nothing in this. If the offence went no farther than the general conspiracy, it could not be known what particular persons would fall into the snare. But we think that the count is defective in not stating, with sufficient particularity, what the defendants conspired to do. It states that they conspired to deceive and defraud divers of her Majesty's subjects who should bargain with them for the sale of goods, of great quantities of such goods, without making payment or other remuneration or satisfaction for the same. Now, obtaining goods without paying is, as Mr. *Murphy* argued, not necessarily a fraud: the words might apply to the obtaining goods to sell on commission. Therefore we are of opinion that that count is bad. We also think that the second count is defective for a like reason. It alleges that the defendants, in pursuance of the conspiracy there mentioned, did make and execute a false and fraudulent deed of bargain and sale, with intent thereby to obtain emolument for themselves: but it does not state in what respect the deed was false and fraudulent;

fraudulent; and therefore we have only the prosecutor's general opinion upon this point, not the facts on which it is founded. The judgment must be reversed.

Judgment reversed (a).

(a) See *Rex v. Richardson*, 1 M. & Rob. 402.

1839.

THE QUEEN
against
PECK.

SYKES *against* DIXON.

Tuesday,
January 29th.

CASE. First count, for harbouring *William Bradley*, the plaintiff's servant, who had unlawfully left his service. Second count, for enticing *W. B.*, the plaintiff's servant, to quit him without leave. Pleas. 1. Not Guilty. 2. That *W. B.* was not plaintiff's servant. Issues thereon. On the trial before *Alderson B.* at the *Yorkshire Spring Assizes 1837*, it appeared that, on *August 17th, 1833*, *William Bradley* (mentioned in the declaration) signed the following agreement with the plaintiff.

"Memorandum of an agreement made the 17th day of *August 1833*, by which I, *William Bradley*, of *Sheffield* in the county of *York*, do agree that I will work for and with *John Sykes* of *Sheffield* aforesaid, manufacturer of powder flasks and other articles, at and in such work as he shall order and direct, and no other person whatsoever, from this day henceforth during and until the expiration of twelve months, and so on from twelve months' end to twelve months' end until I shall give the said *John Sykes* twelve months' notice in writing that I shall quit his service."

(Signed by *Bradley* only.)

Blackburne, for the defendant, objected that this agreement was invalid under sect. 4 of the statute of frauds, 29 Car. 2. c. 3., as shewing no consideration for the

B. contracted in writing to work for plaintiff in his trade, and for no other person, during twelve months, and so on from twelve months to twelve months, until *B.* should give notice of quitting.

Held, that such agreement was invalid under stat. 29 C. 2. c. 3. s. 4. for want of mutuality.

And that this objection might be taken by the defendant in an action by plaintiff for harbouring *B.*, who, as plaintiff alleged, had quitted him without proper notice.

1839.

 SYKES
 against
 DIXON.

the promise by *Bradley*, inasmuch as the plaintiff was not bound by it to the performance of any duty towards him; and he cited *Lees v. Whitcomb* (a). The learned Judge reserved leave to move to enter a nonsuit on the objection.

It appeared that *Bradley* served the plaintiff two years under the agreement, and continued serving him, without any fresh contract, during a third year, but that at the expiration of that year he left the plaintiff and went into the defendant's service. After the expiration of the first two years, *Bradley* had given the plaintiff a notice of his intention to quit the service. The sufficiency of the notice was disputed on the ensuing argument in this Court: but, as the judgment did not turn upon it, no further statement on the subject is necessary. The jury found a verdict for the plaintiff on the first count, and for the defendant on the second. In *Easter* term 1837, *Baines* obtained a rule nisi for entering a nonsuit. In the present term (b),

Cresswell and *Hoggins* shewed cause. It is contended on the other side that *Bradley's* contract with the plaintiff was not to be performed within one year from the making; and, therefore, by sect. 4 of stat. 29 Car. 2. c. 3., cannot be enforced unless there was a valid agreement in writing. But, first, this is not a case within the statute. The original agreement was for two years certain, which expired in *August* 1836; afterwards, and when this action accrued, *Bradley* was serving only from year to year. That subsequent service might

(a) 5 Bing. 34.

(b) *January* 22d. Before Lord Denman C. J., *Littledale* and *Williams* Js.

have

have been indefinitely continued; but sect. 4 of the statute does not attach merely because the engagement may possibly extend over more than one year. It may be inferred from *Boydell v. Drummond* (a) that the prolongation must be distinctly contemplated. Supposing, here, an imperfect agreement for two years, under which the parties have acted, there might afterwards be a valid unwritten contract for a continuance of the service from year to year; and the former agreement might be looked at to ascertain the terms, so far as they had been reduced to writing, upon which the parties meant to go on. The consideration for *Bradley's* service, which does not appear in the written instrument, might, under the yearly contract, be added by parol. It is as if a tenant had been let into premises under an irregular demise, and had continued to hold, after the contemplated term, without further stipulation: the instrument of demise would be looked to for the terms of the continued holding; and, if it did not specify a rent, the unwritten agreement of the parties might supply that defect. The objections to this contract are, first, that it is void for want of mutuality. It is true, that the agreement was signed only by *Bradley*; but the statute requires only the signature of the party to be charged. *Laythoarp v. Bryant* (b) decides this point. It will be said that nothing is stipulated on the plaintiff's part, by way of consideration for *Bradley's* service; and *Lees v. Whitcomb* (c) will be cited: but the reasons given by the three learned Judges for their decision in that case do not entirely agree; *Best* C. J. seems to rest his on the ground of variance; and *Gaselee* J. expresses a doubt.

1839.

 SYKES
against
DIXON.
(a) 11 *East*, 142.(b) 2 *New Ca.* 785.(c) 5 *Bing.* 34.

1839.

 STYKES
 against
 DIXON.

[Lord *Denman* C. J. The action there was between the master and servant.] And in the present case, if the written agreement only were looked to, the law would imply a promise by the master to pay wages, and a quantum meruit would lie for them. That being so, *Bradley* should have given notice according to the written contract, ending with the year: not having done so, he was still servant to the plaintiff when he joined the defendant. (The argument as to notice is omitted; *Beeston v. Collyer* (a) and *Williams v. Byrne* (b) were cited.) Even if the contract here was invalid, a third person cannot take advantage of the defect: it is a sufficient answer to the defendant, that *Bradley* was the plaintiff's servant de facto; *Barber v. Dennis* (c), *Keane v. Boycott* (d).

Baines and *Ogle*, *contra*. *Bradley* was not even servant de facto to the plaintiff. The original agreement was, in effect, for two years certain; *Birch v. Wright*, judgment of *Buller* J. (e); *Denn dem. Jacklin v. Cartwright* (g); 4 *Bac. Abr.* 836., tit. *Leases and Terms for Years*, (L.), (7th ed.); therefore it required a regular memorandum in writing; and the written instrument here produced, not being conformable to the statute, is a nullity, and cannot be referred to for any purpose. In the cases of landlord and tenant which have been referred to, a new tenancy has been held to commence on the terms of the former holding, but not till those terms have been recognised on the part of the tenant, as by

(a) 4 *Bing.* 309.(b) 7 *A. & E.* 177.(c) 1 *Salk.* 68.(d) 2 *H. Bl.* 511.(e) 1 *T. R.* 378.(g) 4 *East*, 29. See *Doe dem. Chadborn v. Green*, *antè*, p. 658.

payment

payment of the rent. Here the servant professed to treat the agreement for two years as a nullity. It may be that the instrument did not require the signature of both parties; but at least it should have expressed both the promise by one and the consideration moving from the other. In *Lees v. Whitcomb* (a) *Burrough J.* distinctly founds his judgment on the want of an expressed consideration. The true construction of stat. 29 Car. 2. c. 3. s. 4. is, that an agreement not drawn up in the manner there prescribed is absolutely void; *Birkmyr v. Darnell* (b), *Carrington v. Roots* (c). In the latter case a distinction was suggested between sect. 4 of the Statute of Frauds and sect. 17, but without success; and the whole Court held that the contract, not being made conformably to sect. 4, was void. This case, therefore, differs from *Keane v. Boycott* (d), where the contract which the defendant sought to impeach was voidable only. And here, if the contract was merely voidable, *Bradley* had exercised his option of avoiding it when the defendant received him. On the want of mutuality, *Young v. Timmins* (e) is a direct authority. It is indeed suggested that a consideration on the master's part, namely payment, may be inferred from the terms of this agreement. [Lord Denman C. J. I do not see how we can infer that as a consideration for his confining himself to the one employer, because any person with whom he worked would be obliged to pay him.] It is contended on the other side that, assuming this contract to be void by the statute, a third party cannot take advantage of it; but *Rex v. Hipswell* (g), *Rex v. Gravesend* (h), *Smith v.*

1839.

 STOKES
 against
 DIXON.

(a) 5 Bing. 34.

(b) 1 Salk. 27.

(c) 2 M. & W. 248.

(d) 2 H. Bl. 511.

(e) 1 Cro. & J. 331. S. C. 1 Tyr. 226.

(g) 8 B. & C. 466.

(h) 3 B. & Ad. 240.

1839.

 SYKES
 against
 DIXON.

Birch (a), and *Gye v. Felton (b)*, shew the contrary. Where indeed the master sues for an injury done to his servant, the defendant cannot allege that the contract between those parties is null; but here the servant himself sought to take advantage of the nullity. On the plea of Not Guilty, the scienter is a material part of the issue; *Thomas v. Morgan (c)*: and can it be said here that the defendant knew *Bradley* to be the plaintiff's servant? [Lord *Denman* C. J. All we can assume on the subject is, that *Bradley* told the defendant the truth. Then the question is whether or not, under the circumstances, the contract was actually void, not what *Bradley's* opinion may have been.]

Cur. adv. vult.

LORD DENMAN C. J. now delivered the judgment of the Court. There were two pleas in this case, on which issue was joined; Not Guilty; and that *William Bradley* was not the plaintiff's servant. To prove that *Bradley* was servant, a contract was put in, the operation of which was entirely on one side. It bound *Bradley* to serve the plaintiff, and no other person, for a specified time, and not to leave the service without giving twelve months' notice. After the stated time had expired, *Bradley* gave a notice, to which the plaintiff objected. *Bradley* afterwards left the service. We think that the agreement put in was no contract of service; for it was altogether on one side. *Bradley* was to serve one person only; but that one was not bound to employ him. It was contended, for the plaintiff, that a promise must be implied, on the master's part, to pay *Bradley* for

(a) 1 *Bolt*, 509. pl. 628. 6th ed.

(b) 4 *Taunt.* 876.

(c) 2 *Cro. M. & R.* 496. *S. C.* 5 *Tyr.* 1085.

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his labour; but that would be the same in any service to which *Bradley* might engage himself: it is no consideration for this contract. Then it was argued, on the authority of *Keane v. Boycott (a)*, that the objection was not one which a third person could take; and that might be so in a case where the servant was de facto continuing in the service; but not here, where he had quitted his master, and taken his chance in hiring himself to the defendant.

1839.

SYKES
against
DIXON.

Rule absolute.

(a) 2 H. Bl. 511.

In the Matter of Arbitration between ROBERT GREENWOOD and JONATHAN and ANTHONY TITTERINGTON.

Tuesday,
January 29th.

CRESSWELL, in *Michaelmas* term 1838, obtained a rule to shew cause why the award made between these parties should not be set aside, on the ground, among others, that the umpire was not properly appointed. The submission to arbitration was by agreement, giving power to two arbitrators, *Whitaker* and *Postlethwaite*, to appoint an umpire, who was to be chosen before proceeding to hear evidence. At the first meeting of the arbitrators *Whitaker* named one umpire and *Postlethwaite* another; and the choice between them was decided by ballot. It appeared by the affidavits in opposition to the rule that, before proceeding to further business, the arbitrators informed the parties

Where arbitrators are empowered to choose an umpire, and having differed in their nominations, make the appointment by lot, and then inform the litigating parties "that they have mutually chosen" *A. B.* to be umpire, and the parties thereupon assent to the choice, neither party is bound by such acquiescence, if given in ignorance of the real state of facts.

An award was set aside on motion, it appearing by the affidavits that a communication was made as above, and the choice assented to; but it not appearing whether the parties assenting (and one of whom now objected), knew, at the time of such assent, how the appointment had taken place.

1839. "that they had mutually chosen Mr. *Edward Atkinson* to be umpire;" and the parties approved of such choice. The award was made by the umpire and one of the arbitrators.

In the Matter of
GREENWOOD
and
TITTERINGTON.

Alexander now shewed cause. The choice of an umpire by lot does not invalidate the award in this case, because it must be inferred, from the statements before the Court, that the litigating parties understood what had been done. The contrary is not suggested by the affidavits in support of the motion. The rule on this subject is to be collected from the cases of *Ford v. Jones* (a), *In the Matter of Tunno and Bird* (b), *In the Matter of Jamieson and Binns* (c).

Cresswell, contra, was not heard.

LORD DENMAN C. J. The presumption, at all events, is against the election of an umpire by lot. Such a transaction should at least be fully explained. It should appear that each arbitrator exercised his judgment on the fitness of the person to be balloted for, and that the parties knew of the course about to be adopted. Here it is not clear that the parties had that advantage, or that each of the arbitrators knew both the persons proposed as umpires. The litigating parties, it appears, were told that the arbitrators had chosen *Atkinson*; but that, if implying that they had exercised their judgment, might be a complete misrepresentation.

(a) 3 B. & Ad. 248.

(b) 5 B. & Ad. 488.

(c) 4 A. & E. 945.

LITTLEDALE J. In a case which came before me lately in the Bail Court (a), I examined all the previous decisions, and considered it established that the nomination of an umpire ought to be matter of choice, not of chance, unless the parties consent to an appointment by lot; and that the confidential clerks of the attorneys were not competent to bind their principals and the parties by such a consent. I agree in the general principle that, unless there be a clear consent, the nomination by chance is wrong. The rule must be absolute.

1839.

—
In the Matter of
GREENWOOD
and
TITTERINGTON.

WILLIAMS J. I am of the same opinion. The assent was given on the supposition that the arbitrators had done their duty and exercised a discretion.

COLERIDGE J. The assent, given in ignorance, was no assent. The parties were told that the arbitrators had exercised a choice: that was very different from their being informed, as the fact was, that each had had an opinion against one of the proposed umpires. In the case *In the Matter of Tunno and Bird* (b) the party moving against the award had given his assent with full knowledge of the intended mode of appointment.

Rule absolute.

(a) Probably *In the Matter of Hodson and Drewry*, 7 Dowl. P. C. 569.

(b) 5 B. & Ad. 488.

1839.

Tuesday,
January 29th.

Sir JACOB ASTLEY, Baronet, *against* Joy.

A certificate for full costs, under *Reg. Gen. Hil. Vac. 4 W. 4., Directions to taxing officers*, where a cause is tried before a judge and less than 20*l.* recovered, must be given by the judge himself; and, if, from an unavoidable cause, as the judge's death, it cannot be obtained from him, the Court cannot direct it to be entered on the *postea*. Although the cause was referred at *nisi* prius to an arbitrator, who, on giving his decision, stated that it was fit to be tried by a judge.

THIS was an action for a balance of rent, &c. The cause came on for trial before *Park J.* at the last *Norfolk* assizes; and, after it had been partly heard, a verdict was taken for the plaintiff, and the cause referred to a barrister, to certify as to the amount of damages. The arbitrator certified for a sum below 20*l.* He also (at the request of the plaintiff's agent) certified that the cause was a proper one to be tried by a Judge. The plaintiff then endeavoured to obtain a similar certificate from *Park J.*, in order that the costs might be taxed on the usual scale, according to *Reg. Gen. Hil. Vac. 4 W. 4. Directions to taxing officers &c. (a)*; but the learned Judge was too ill to give the certificate, and continued unable to do so till his death.

Byles now moved that the Court would direct a certificate to be entered on the *postea*. He contended that the rule on this subject, being established, not by statute, but only by regulation of the Court, might be varied from, to the extent now required; and he cited *Nokes v. Frazer (b)* and *Broggreff v. Hawke (c)*. [Lord Denman C. J. Did the order of reference here give the arbitrator

(a) 5 *B. & Ad.* xix. By that rule, where the sum recovered, in assumpsit, &c., shall not exceed 20*l.* without costs, the plaintiff's costs shall be taxed according to a reduced scale. "Provided that in case of trial before a judge of one of the superior courts, or judge of assize, if the judge shall certify on the *postea* that the cause was proper to be tried before him, and not before a sheriff or judge of an inferior court, the costs shall be taxed upon the usual scale."

(b) 3 *Dowl. P. C.* 339.

(c) 3 *New Ca.* 880.

power

power to certify as to the fitness of the cause to be tried by a judge?] That does not appear; nor did it in *Nokes v. Frazer* (a). [Coleridge J. There the certificate was given by the Judge before whom the cause came on for trial.] The Court here will supply the defect of power in the arbitrator in the same way.

1839.

 ASTLEY
against
JOY.

LORD DENMAN C. J. There is no warrant for this application. In *Nokes v. Frazer* (a) the certificate was given by the Judge of assize, who had seen the pleadings and heard the opening of the case. He desired to have the arbitrator's opinion; but it does not appear that he acted solely upon that. Here there can be no exercise of opinion whatever by the Judge.

LITLEDALE J. We have nothing to proceed upon here, but the arbitrator's opinion. No power was delegated to him to certify on this subject.

WILLIAMS J. concurred.

COLERIDGE J. I am of the same opinion. If we could do what is asked here, the same application might be made to a Judge by whose order a cause is referred.

Rule refused (b).

(a) 3 Dowl. P. C. 339.

(b) See *Hallen v. Smith*, 7 Dowl. P. C. 394.

1839.

Tuesday,
January 29th.

The QUEEN *against* DODSON and Others.

A party may be convicted, under the general clause, sect. 24, in stat. 7 & 8 G. 4. c. 30., of having wilfully and maliciously damaged growing wood, to the value of 6d., though sect. 20 expressly imposes a penalty for unlawfully and maliciously damaging such wood, "the injury done being to the amount of 1s. at the least."

The proviso of sect. 24, exempting from the penalty there imposed any person acting under a reasonable supposition of right, does not oblige justices to dismiss a charge made under that section, upon the mere statement of the accused party that he so acted; but, in default of proof by him, they may judge, from all the circumstances, whether or not the party did so act.

It is no proof of a *bonâ fide* claim subsisting, that several parties, other than the individual charged, have committed similar trespasses, using the same colour of right as that which he professes to rely upon, and that the complainants have obtained injunctions from the Court of Chancery against such parties.

So held on motion for a criminal information against magistrates who had convicted as above.

In discharging a rule for such information, the Court refused to order payment of costs by *J. S.*, who appeared to have instigated the trespasses in question, and had employed an attorney to defend the persons charged with such trespasses (including the party making the present application); *J. S.* not having sworn an affidavit or otherwise taken a direct part in obtaining the rule.

Nor would they make such order upon the attorney, who had neither made an affidavit nor otherwise acted in obtaining the rule; although affidavits in support of the rule were sworn by his clerks; and although, on the hearing of an information for one of the above-mentioned trespasses (but not that immediately in question), he had publicly uttered words, not warranted by his professional duty, encouraging persons present to commit similar trespasses.

IN *Michaelmas* term, 1838, a rule nisi was obtained for a criminal information against the Reverend *Nathaniel Dodson* and others, justices of *Berkshire*, for misdemeanour, under the following circumstances.

William Keen, of *South Hinksey*, in the county of *Berks*, labourer, was charged, by information before the above-mentioned justices in petty sessions (*November* 1st, 1838), with having, at *Bagley Wood*, in the same county, "wilfully and maliciously" committed "damage, injury, and spoil to certain underwood, the property of the president and scholars of *St. John Baptist College*, in the University of *Oxford*, then and there growing, whereby the same was then and there injured to the amount of 6d., against the form of the statute" &c., 7 & 8 G. 4. c. 30. *Wagner*, clerk to *Thomas Frankum*, of *Abingdon*, an attorney of this court, attended the petty sessions (*No-*

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ember 5th) with *Keen*, as his professional adviser.

Wagner protested against the jurisdiction of the justices, alleging that *Keen* had acted under a fair and reasonable supposition that he had a right to cut the underwood for estovers and firebote. The case was, however, gone into, and witnesses called, who proved that *Keen* had cut down a whitethorn and a maple. They stated, on cross-examination, that many persons had been cutting underwood in certain open parts of *Bagley Wood*, and that, when interfered with by the servants of the college, they said they were "trying for their rights." It appeared that several of these persons acted on the same assumption of right as *Keen*. The college had obtained injunctions from the Court of Chancery against a great number of these parties (of whom *Keen* was not one), to restrain them from cutting underwood in *Bagley Wood*. *Keen* produced no witnesses in defence; but *Wagner*, on his behalf, again urged that the information ought to be dismissed, there being a bonâ fide claim of right, which was under litigation in the Court of Chancery. *Keen* was, however, convicted of having committed damage as charged by the information, to the amount of 6*d.*, and was committed to the House of Correction for non-payment of that sum and costs. In his affidavit made in support of the present rule, he stated that he claimed a right, in respect of his ancient dwelling-house, to cut and carry away, from a certain common or open part of *Bagley Wood*, furze, underwood, &c., without stint, to be used in his said dwelling-house for fuel or repairs, and that he committed the alleged trespass in exercise of such right. The affidavits also stated that the claim of such right by the inhabitant householders of *South Hinksey* and other places adjacent to the

1839.

The QUEEN
against
DODSON.

1839.

The QUEEN
against
DODSON.

the wood must have been well known to *Mr. Dodson*, since he had, during the last six months, heard several informations against such persons for exercising the alleged right. The affidavits did not set forth any fact (except as above stated) from which the alleged right was deduced. The principal ground of the present application was, that the justices had corruptly, and against the statute, convicted *Keen*. There were some other suggestions of misconduct, on which no question of law arose.

The affidavits in opposition to the rule set forth the evidence, by which it appeared that the wood was cut by moonlight, between six and eight in the evening of *October 30th*; and that *Keen* was remonstrated with by servants of the college, but committed the acts of trespass after such remonstrance. The affidavits further stated that the justices, after hearing the evidence, asked *Keen* if he had any witnesses to establish "a fair and reasonable right" in him to cut the wood, and offered to hear such witnesses. That the president and scholars of *St. John's* had been seised and possessed of the whole of *Bagley Wood* for two hundred years last past, subject only to certain rights of common of pasture: that, in 1819, some inhabitants of cottages in *South Hinksey, &c.*, having claimed a right of cutting estovers or firebote in the wood, and having cut the underwood in exercise of such alleged right, the president and scholars brought an action against them; that the right was pleaded in justification, and in 1820 the cause was tried and the plaintiffs obtained judgment: that from that time till 1837 the rights of the college were (except in some trifling instances) acquiesced in: that since 1837 the trees, underwood, &c., of the wood had been carried away, damaged, and destroyed

stroyed to a much greater extent than could have been requisite even for the estovers and firebote claimed, and by other persons than those for whom the claim was made, and that the wood so cut had been sent to *Oxford* and *Abingdon* for sale, or other disposal: that the injunctions before mentioned had been obtained, from time to time as offenders were discovered, for the purpose of preserving the college property in the wood, and preventing extensive depredations therein, not only by persons claiming, but by persons not pretending to, right of estovers and firebote: that none of these injunctions was directed to *Keen*, because, at the time when they were sued out, it did not appear that he had committed any trespasses: that, between 1837 and the proceeding against *Keen*, the justices against whom the present application was made had heard many informations against persons charged with cutting the wood, and convicted the defendants; that none of those parties, as far as the justices knew, had taken any legal measures to establish their alleged rights; and that, at the time when the information against *Keen* was heard, the destruction of the wood was proceeding to a ruinous extent. The magistrates, in their affidavits, denied having been actuated by any improper motive.

It was further suggested, by the affidavits against the rule, that the trespasses had been renewed since 1837 at the instigation of *Frankum* and of one *Thomas Pratt* (a), who had been several times convicted of trespasses in the wood, and had threatened to send a hundred people to cut there: that, on one occasion in particular (*August* 1838), a procession of persons, with ribands and music, headed by *Pratt*, had brought a waggon, laden with sticks from the wood, into *Abingdon*, and exchanged a part

1839.

The QUEEN
- against
DODSON.

(a) See *In the Matter of Pratt*, 7 A. & E. 27.

1899.

—
The QUEEN
against
DODSON.

of the load for beer : that, in all the cases which had come before the magistrates respecting the wood, *Frankum*, by himself or his clerk, had attended professionally on behalf of the persons charged, and had been instructed by *Pratt* : and that, on one such occasion (*September 1898*), when the magistrates had adjourned the hearing, *Frankum* had declared aloud, in the court, that the parties charged should (or would), as soon as they left the court, go into the wood and cut again. There were also affidavits stating that *Pratt* and *Frankum* had come to the house of correction in which *Keen* was confined, paid the damages and costs for which he was detained, and at the same time produced to him notices of the present motion, addressed to the justices, which he signed at *Pratt's* and *Frankum's* request ; from which, and the other facts, it was inferred that they had induced him to make this application. Neither *Pratt* nor *Frankum* made any affidavit in support of the rule ; but there were affidavits on that side by two persons who were clerks to *Frankum*. In this term (a),

Sir *J. Campbell*, Attorney-General, Sir *W. W. Follett*, and *Bayley*, shewed cause. The magistrates had jurisdiction, under stat. 7 & 8 G. 4. c. 30. ; for, although the case was not within sect. 20 (b), the "injury done" not

(a) *January 14th*. Before Lord *Denman* C. J., *Littledale*, *Williams*, and *Coleridge* Js.

(b) Stat. 7 & 8 G. 4. c. 30. s. 20. enacts, "That if any person shall unlawfully and maliciously cut, break, bark, root up, or otherwise destroy or damage the whole or any part of any tree, sapling, or shrub, or any underwood, wheresoever the same may be respectively growing, the injury done being to the amount of 1s. at the least, every such offender, being convicted before a justice of the peace," shall forfeit &c. (a sum not exceeding 5*l.*) ; and on a second conviction shall be liable to imprisonment and hard labour, and on a third conviction shall be deemed guilty of felony, &c.

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"being to the amount of 1s.," sect. 24 is not so limited, and includes this as well as all other injuries to "any real or personal property" (a). And the jurisdiction here is not taken away by the clause of sect. 24 in favour of persons acting under a reasonable supposition of right. The assertion of legal claims was a pretence. A mere allegation before the justices that a right is claimed ought not to oust them of jurisdiction: if *Keen* could have adduced evidence of such a right, or of any reasonable ground for supposing that he had it, the opportunity of doing so was offered him; but he gave no such proof, nor is any now given on affidavit. In *Paley on Convictions* (b), after stating that "where the title to property is in question, the exercise of a summary jurisdiction by justices of the peace is ousted," the author adds, "The rule, however, ought not to be so extended, as to enable an offender to arrest the summary jurisdiction of the justice by a mere fictitious pretence of title. An assertion of right, therefore, is not to be regarded, where it evidently appears that no colour or pretext for it exists." So in *Rex v. Wrottesley* (c) it was held that, on complaint before justices of non-payment of church-rate, the jurisdiction was not taken away by a mere assertion that the party disputed the validity of the

1839.

The QUEEN
against
DODSON.

(a) Stat. 7 & 8 G. 4. c. 30. s. 24. enacts, "That if any person shall wilfully or maliciously commit any damage, injury, or spoil to or upon any real or personal property whatsoever, either of a public or private nature, for which no remedy or punishment is hereinbefore provided, every such person, being convicted" &c., shall forfeit &c. (a sum not exceeding 5*l.*). "Provided always, that nothing herein contained shall extend to any case where the party trespassing acted under a fair and reasonable supposition that he had a right to do the act complained of, nor to any trespass, not being wilful and malicious, committed in hunting," &c., "but that every such trespass shall be punishable in the same manner as before the passing of this act."

(b) *Fp.* 54, 57. 3d ed., by *Deacon*.

(c) 1 *B. & Ad.* 648.

rate

1839.

—
The QUEEN
against
DODSON.

rate. Assuming even that the justices here had done wrong, it does not follow that the Court would grant a criminal information against them. And the rule should be discharged with costs to be paid by *Pratt* and *Frankum*. *Pratt* is evidently the person employing *Frankum*, and has been guilty of barratry and maintenance in the transactions before the Court; and, in such a case, according to the observation of Lord *Abinger* C. B. in *Hayward v. Giffard* (a), a person not formally a party to the proceedings may be subjected to costs. At any rate, the Court may exercise that authority over *Frankum*, who is one of its attorneys, and has gone out of the line of his professional duty in these disputes. *Rex v. Borron* (b), where this Court discharged a rule for a criminal information against a magistrate, with costs to be paid by the attorney, was not so strong a case as the present.

Erle and *F. V. Lee*, *contra*. First, the justices had no jurisdiction. Sect. 20 of stat. 7 & 8 G. 4. c. 30. is the clause which meets this case. Sect. 24 applies only to "damage, injury, or spoil," "for which no remedy or punishment is hereinbefore provided." [*Littledale J.* Sect. 24 extends to cases not provided for by sect. 20; for it inflicts a penalty if any person shall "wilfully or maliciously" commit damage &c.; sect. 20 applies only to damage done "unlawfully and maliciously."] At any rate, the proviso of sect. 24 includes this case. If there had been no previous user of the alleged right, and *Keen* had been found cutting the wood by moonlight, the magistrates, on hearing the information, might not

(a) 4 M. & W. 194.

(b) 3 B. & Ald. 432.

have

have been bound to allow that he acted under a claim of right merely because he said so. But here the party did the act openly, asserting his claim at the time; and the right advanced by him had been maintained in an action some years before; and there had been some attempts to use it subsequently. The injunctions obtained *ex parte* decide nothing; but they shew that a litigation is depending, the result of which may possibly be an issue to try this very right. The present case, therefore, comes within the rule stated in *Paley on Convictions*, p. 54 (a), that where title to property is in question the summary jurisdiction is ousted; and resembles the *Anonymous* case mentioned in p. 59. note [1.] of the same work, where the Court granted a rule nisi for a criminal information against a magistrate who had convicted under such circumstances. Supposing this rule to be dismissed, *Pratt* and *Frankum* cannot be subjected to costs, not being parties to the application: and, if this were otherwise, the Court would not take a step against *Frankum* calculated to intimidate persons exercising the duty of attorneys.

Cur. adv. vult.

LORD DENMAN C. J. now delivered the judgment of the Court. After stating the points discussed, his Lordship said,

We think that the justices undoubtedly had jurisdiction, because the proceeding was under sect. 24 of stat. 7 & 8 G. 4. c. 30., and not under sect. 20; and under sect. 24 damage to the amount of only 6*d.* warrants a summary conviction. As to the claim of right, the magistrates exercised their judgment, as they were en-

(a) 3*d* ed.

1839.

—
The QUEEN
against
DODSON.

1829,

**The Queen
against
DODSON.**

titled to do, and were of opinion that the act in question was not done in the bonâ fide exercise of what the party supposed to be his right. It appears that in 1820 this alleged right was set up by parties in the situation of *Keen*; and, on a trial bringing it into question, the president and scholars obtained a verdict. That decision was acquiesced in for some time; but, last year, new trespasses were begun. Injunctions were obtained against some of the parties, and they desisted; but others continued trespassing, and injunctions were obtained against them also; and at this period *Keen* appears for the first time to have done the acts which were complained of before the justices. An extensive mischief was going on; and the magistrates were of opinion that the cutting of the wood by *Keen* was done when he did not believe that he had any right, and for the purpose of exciting others to do the same. The magistrates, in the course of the proceedings before them, repeatedly asked what right could be shewn, and received no answer. The decision in favour of the college on this subject had been notorious; but nevertheless the trespasses were renewed and spoliation persisted in. There must be some limit to such a course. It appears that great quantities of the wood were taken, carried in procession in a riotous manner, and bartered for beer; and there is great reason to think that *Pratt*, who had been more than once convicted of trespasses in the wood, excited these proceedings. The magistrates who heard the information against *Keen* were empowered to form their judgment on these circumstances: and it is impossible to say that they were wrong in pronouncing the act complained of to be a pertinacious trespassing. They deny any improper motive; nor indeed is this strongly imputed.

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The rule must, therefore, be discharged, and, being applied for against magistrates, with costs. It was contended that *Pratt* should be liable for these; but, he not being a party to the rule, we cannot so visit him. There is no authority for such a proceeding. Then as to *Frankum*: his conduct was extremely blameable, particularly at the time when, upon the magistrates adjourning a case, he said, in the presence of a number of persons, that the people charged with trespass would go back to the wood and help themselves. We think, however, that the magistrates might have vindicated their own authority on that occasion: *Frankum* has not been called upon to answer this matter; and it happened at a different time from that to which the present application relates. Upon the whole, therefore, we are of opinion that these parties should not be called upon for costs upon the present rule. The rule will be discharged with costs, but without any special order as to the payment (a).

Rule discharged with costs.

(a) See *Regina v. Thomas and Philp*, 7 A. & E. 608.

The QUEEN *against* The Trustees of SWANSEA Harbour. Wednesday,
January 30th.

This case is reported, 8 A. & E. page 439.

1839.

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The QUEEN
against
DODSON.

1839.

Wednesday,
January 30th.

The QUEEN *against* The Recorder of BATH.

(MARSHFIELD *against* LYNCOMB and WIDCOMB.)

An overseer is not competent, by stat. 54 G. 3. c. 170. s. 9., or otherwise, to give evidence for his parish on the trial of an appeal against an order of removal; whether the evidence be tendered on the merits, or on a preliminary point, as service of notice.

AT the *October* quarter sessions for the city and borough of *Bath*, 1838, an appeal came on to be heard, against an order of justices removing *John Marchant* from the parish of *Lyncomb* and *Widcomb*, in the said city and borough, to the parish of *Marshfield*, in the county of *Gloucester*. The appellants called one of their own overseers to prove their notice of appeal; but the respondents objected to him as incompetent by reason of his office; and, the recorder holding the objection good, the appeal was dismissed. In last *Michaelmas* term a rule nisi was obtained for a mandamus to the recorder, to enter continuances and hear the appeal. In this term (a),

Kinglake shewed cause. First, the overseer was inadmissible, if considered only as a nominal party to the appeal; *Bauerman v. Radenius* (b). Stat. 54 G. 3. c. 170. s. 9. enacts that persons who are inhabitant rate-payers, and parish officers, shall not, by reason thereof, be incompetent as witnesses in the cases there specified: but that does not let in actual parties. Before the statute, rate-payers were inadmissible, as being substantially parties; *Rex v. Kirdford* (c), *Rex v. Woburn* (d), *Rex v. Hardwick* (e); and overseers were incompetent on the same account, and not by reason of their office: they do

(a) January 29th. Before Lord Denman C. J., *Littledale, Williams, and Coleridge* Js.

(b) 7 T. R. 663.

(d) 10 East, 395.

(c) 2 East, 559.

(e) 11 East, 578.

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not, therefore, as officers, derive any new capacity from the statute. [Lord *Denman* C. J. The witness here came to prove a notice of appeal. Is there any authority for a distinction, as to competency, between witnesses called to prove a preliminary point, and those called for other purposes?] There is none. The proof is essential to the case, as giving the Court jurisdiction. The overseers are not merely nominal parties to the appeal; for, by stat. 4 & 5 *W. 4. c. 76. s. 82.*, if the appeal is decided against their parish, they are individually liable in the first instance for the costs: and, although they may reimburse themselves, that primary liability creates a sufficient interest to disqualify; as where executors and trustees have been held incompetent by reason of their legal liability to costs, though having no private interest in the suit: 1 *Stark. on Ev.* 136. (a). [Littledale J. It might depend on circumstances whether they would be allowed the costs in their account.] Stat. 54 *G. 3. c. 170. s. 8.* vests all securities for the maintenance of bastards in the overseers, and empowers them to put the security in suit. Could the overseer be a witness in an action by himself on a bastardy bond? The officers mentioned in sect. 9 are not to be deemed incompetent witnesses by reason of their holding office, in any matter relating to "the allowance of the accounts of any officer" for the district, parish, &c. Could an overseer, by virtue of this section, give evidence in a matter relating to his own accounts? In *Heudebourck v. Langton* (b) Lord *Tenterden*, in deciding on the admissibility of inhabitants under the statute, distinguished between persons who were merely

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The Recorder
of BATH.

(a) 2d ed.

(b) 3 *Car. & P.* 566. *S. C.* but not this point, *M. & M.* 402. note (b).

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The Recorder
of BATH.

inhabitants, and persons who had become personally liable for the costs of the cause. *Rex v. The Governors, &c. of the Poor of St. Mary Magdalen Bermondsey* (a) is nearly in point. There, by a local act, directors of the poor were to sue and be sued in the name of their treasurer, and to be indemnified out of certain specified funds; on appeal against rates made by them, the sessions were to award costs to the party appealing or appealed against; and it was enacted that any inhabitant of the parish, though paying rates, might, upon any trial, &c., concerning the execution of the act, be deemed a competent witness. This Court held that, on appeal against a rate made by the directors, they themselves were not competent to give evidence at the trial, being liable individually in the first instance for the costs, and being parties to the suit. Secondly, the recorder of the borough had not jurisdiction to try this appeal (b). [The Court desired to hear counsel for the appellants on the first point, before proceeding upon this.]

Shee, contra. Stat. 54 G. 3. c. 170. s. 9. expressly enacts that no inhabitant of a parish, or person "executing or holding any office thereof or therein," shall be incompetent in the cases specified. Overseers must have been contemplated by the legislature in framing this clause. The enactment as to costs, stat. 4 & 5 W. 4. c. 76. s. 82., evidently has in view a liability to be imposed on the parish, not on the individual officers. In *Rex v. The Governors, &c. of the Poor of St. Mary Magdalen Bermondsey* (a) the local act provided in terms that the directors should be sued, and that they should be indemnified. They were

(a) 3 East, 5.

(b) See *Regina v. St. Lawrence, Ludlow, Michaelmas term, 1839.*

primarily

primarily liable. But, under sect. 82 of stat. 4 & 5 W. 4. c. 76., the justices are to order the *parish* to pay costs; the overseers are not liable in the first instance, unless as treasurers; and, although the amount may be recovered from them "in the same manner as any penalties or forfeitures are by this act recoverable," that is only in case of perverseness in them; if, on production of the magistrates' certificate, they "refuse or neglect to pay." In *M'Gahey v. Alston (a)*, which was an action in the name of the vestry clerk of *St. Pancras* on a bond given to the directors of the poor of that parish, a director, as having no personal interest, but being merely manager of a public fund, was held to be a good witness for the plaintiff, on the authority of *Fletcher v. Greenwell (b)*. [*Littledale J.* In *Fletcher v. Greenwell (b)* the witness was not a party on the record. *Coleridge J.* In *M'Gahey v. Alston (a)* the plaintiff was examined; but he was expressly made competent by a local act (c).] In practice, overseers have constantly been called to prove notices of appeal. [*Coleridge J.* Their declarations have been given in evidence, and the objection not taken, that they themselves might be called as witnesses.] In *Weller v. The Governors of the Foundling Hospital (d)* governors, though parties to the record in a corporate capacity, were held to be good witnesses, because they had no personal interest, but were mere trustees. In *Withnell v. Gartham (e)* a trustee was held competent on the same principle. The overseers in this case have no more interest than the

1839.

—
The Queen
against
The Recorder
of Bath.

(a) 2 M. & W. 206.

(b) 1 Cro. M. & R. 754. S. C. 5 Tyr. 316.

(c) Stat. 59 G. 3. c. xxxix., local and personal, public, s. 16.

(d) 1 Peake N. P. C. 206. 3d ed.

(e) 1 Esp. N. P. C. 322.

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The Recorder
of BATH.

witnesses who were held admissible in those. [Lord Denman C. J. The point is of great consequence. My impression is, that these preliminary facts have been proved by overseers without objection. Perhaps the late act may make some difference. We will look into this point before considering the other.]

Cur. adv. vult.

Lord DENMAN C. J. now delivered the judgment of the Court. The question in this case was, whether the Recorder of *Bath* was right in rejecting the evidence of an overseer called by an appellant parish, of which he was the officer, to prove their notice of appeal. The objection was, that his situation, as a party to the appeal, disqualified him from being a witness. There is no statute which gives competency to a person so situated. I had some doubt whether, on a preliminary matter, he might not be admissible; but we think that no distinction can be taken in that respect. The Recorder, therefore, was right in rejecting the witness.

Rule discharged.

1839.

DOE on the demise of THOMAS EVANS *against*
DAVID EVANS and Others.*Thursday,*
January 31st.

EJECTMENT for messuages, land, &c., in *Carmarthenshire*. On the trial before *Coleridge J.* at the *Carmarthen* Spring assizes, 1837, it appeared that the lessor of the plaintiff claimed as eldest son and heir at law of *Daniel Evans*; the defendants, under a devise by *Ann Evans*, widow of the said *Daniel*.

Daniel Evans held the premises in question (a farm) under a lease thereof, granted by *John Bartlett Allen* to him and his heirs for certain lives, which were not extinct when this action was brought. The premises were described as a messuage, tenement, and lands with the appurtenances. The lease contained a covenant by *Daniel Evans*, "that he the said *D. E.* and his heirs shall not nor will not at any time during the said term sell, alien, assign, or transfer this indenture of lease or the premises hereby demised, or any part thereof, or his or their estate and interest herein, for all or any part of the said term, without the leave or licence in writing of the said *John Bartlett Allen*, his heirs and assigns, for that purpose first had and obtained." And there was a proviso that, if *Daniel Evans* or his heirs should, during the term, sell, alien, or transfer, &c. (as above), without the leave &c., the lease, and the term thereby granted, should cease, determine, and be void, and it should be lawful for the lessor, his heirs, &c., to re-enter.

Daniel Evans, being in possession under the above lease, made his will as follows. "I give and bequeath

Tenant by demise to him and his heirs for lives devised as follows (after legacies of money and furniture): "I give, bequeath, and devise to my wife *A.* all my money, securities for money, goods, chattels, and estate and effects of what nature or kind soever, and wheresoever the same may be at the time of my death." And I appoint my said wife executrix. The heir at law was not mentioned in any part of the will.

Held, that by the word "estate" the residue of the term passed to the widow.

Although it was contended that, by a covenant in the lease, such a disposal of the term would cause a forfeiture; on which point the Court gave no opinion.

to

1839.

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Dor dem.
EVANS
against
EVANS.

to my son *John Evans* the sum of 50*l.* I give and bequeath to my daughter *Margaret Evans* the sum of 50*l.* I give and bequeath to my son *David Evans* the sum of 50*l.* And my will and meaning is, that the said several sums of 50*l.* each be paid to them respectively when they attain the age of twenty-one years or day of marriage. Also I give and bequeath" (bequest of household furniture to the said *John, Margaret, and David*, to be provided for them by the executrix after-named, on their attaining twenty-one, or marrying). "Also I give, bequeath, and devise unto my beloved wife, *Ann Evans*, all my money, securities for money, goods, chattels, and estate and effects, of what nature or kind soever, and wheresoever the same may or shall be at the time of my death. And I do nominate, constitute, and appoint my said wife sole executrix of this my last will and testament, subject to my funeral expenses, the above legacies, and all my just debts, hereby revoking" &c: (revocation of all former wills). "In witness" &c.

Ann Evans survived *Daniel Evans*, continued in possession, devised the lands now in dispute, and died. The question was, whether or not these lands had passed to her by *Daniel Evans's* will. A verdict was taken for the plaintiff, with leave to move to enter a nonsuit or a verdict for the defendants. In the ensuing term a rule nisi was obtained according to the leave reserved.

Evans and *E. V. Williams* now shewed cause. *Thomas Evans*, as the heir at law of *Daniel*, was special occupant under the lease, unless *Daniel's* will divested him of that title. It is contended on the other side that the word "estate" in that will carried the freehold property ;

perty; and in some cases it has that effect. In 2 *Powell on Devises*, 158—179., 3d ed., the authorities on the subject previous to that publication are collected and commented upon. The context of the will must be looked to; and here it restrains the operation of the word “estate,” the other expressions of the will relating solely to personalty, and the heir at law being entirely passed over. Among the cases which give the rule of construction under these and similar circumstances are *Timewell v. Perkins* (a), *Roe dem. Helling v. Yeud* (b), *Doe dem. Spearing v. Buckner* (c), *Doe dem. Andrew v. Lainchbury* (d), *Doe dem. Hurrell v. Hurrell* (e), *Galliers v. Moss* (g), and *Doe dem. Bunny v. Rout* (h), in which case many of the previous authorities are reviewed. There, it is true, the term “estate” did not occur, the material words being “every other thing, my property;” but this raises no important distinction. In 2 *Powell on Devises*, 160., the author says (adverting to this among other decisions): “It deserves observation, that in the three last cases, in which the words ‘estate’ and ‘property’ were confined to personal estate, in consequence of the *society* in which they were found, the will was altogether silent as to land, there being no preceding devise or mention of it; a circumstance which, though not conclusive, was relied upon in those cases, and has generally been considered as having weight in the exclusion of real estate, by demonstrating that the testator had not property of that species in his contemplation when he made his will.” The testator here was not likely to overlook the estate

1839.

DOE dem.
EVANS
against
EVANS.

(a) 2 *Atk.* 102.(b) 2 *New Rep.* 214.(c) 6 *T. R.* 610.(d) 11 *East*, 290.(e) 5 *B. & Ald.* 18.(g) 9 *B. & C.* 267.(h) 7 *Taunt.* 79. *S. C.* 2 *Marsh.* 397.

1839.

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DOR dem.
EVANS
against
EVANS.

in question when disposing of his property; and there was nothing to account for the omission of his eldest son, unless he supposed that that son would take the farm which he himself then held. [*Coleridge J.* In moving for this rule, *Jongsma v. Jongsma* (a) was cited, where a devise to executors of all the testator's "goods, estates, bonds, debts, to be sold," and applied as in the will mentioned, was held by Sir *Lloyd Kenyon M. R.* to pass copyhold.] That case, and *Tiddy v. Simms* (b) there cited by the Master of the Rolls, appear to have been decided on the ground that all the personalty was disposed of by other words of the will, and therefore the word "estate" was useless unless it meant land. But the repetition, in wills, of terms meaning the same thing, is too frequent to be the ground of any such argument. "Estate" may or may not pass the realty, according to circumstances. In *Wilkinson v. Merryland* (c) the testator, being tenant in fee of lands in A., and holding a mortgage in fee of other lands, devised the lands in A. to J. S., and "all the rest of his goods, chattels, leases, estates, mortgages, debts, ready money, plate, and other goods whereof he was possessed," to his wife, after his debts and legacies paid, and made his wife executrix. It was held that the words "estates, mortgages," &c., did not give the wife a fee in the mortgaged lands, and that after her death the heir of the testator might recover them against the wife's devisee. [*Littledale J.* Would that be so decided now?] The case was treated as authority in *Galliers v. Moss* (d).

(a) 1 Cox, 362.

(b) 1 Cox, 362. S. C. (as *Tilley v. Simpson*) note (b) to *Fletcher v. Smiton*, 2 T. R. 659.

(c) Cro. Car. 447, 449.

(d) 9 B. & C. 267.

In *Cliffe v. Gibbons* (a) Lord Chancellor *Cowper* says that "where a man devises all his estate, goods and chattels, and no mention had been made before in the will of lands of which the testator was seised in fee, a fee simple will not pass; but where a real estate is mentioned before in the will, and then such words follow, a fee passes." Here the word "estate" comes between "chattels" and "effects," and cannot be taken to enlarge what precedes, as it might if placed after every other description of the subjects of devise. Some cases have been decided on this subject since the last edition of *Powell* (1827). Of these, *Wilce v. Wilce* (b), where a fee was held to pass, turned on the manifest intention of the testator to devise all his property. Here it is probable that the testator did not mean to devise the residue of the term, conceiving that he was bound to leave his heir special occupant. In *King v. Shrivess* (c), where land was held to pass to trustees by the words "goods, chattels, estate and effects," there was, in another part of the will, a direction to the same trustees, relative to the lands in question; and, unless those had passed, the purposes of the will could not have been accomplished.

Secondly, supposing, in the present case, that the lands passed to *Ann Evans*, she took only an estate for her life, the devise containing no words of limitation; and after her death the heir at law of *Daniel Evans* was entitled as special occupant; *Doe dem. Jeff v. Robinson* (d).

But, thirdly, a devise of this term would have been an alienation, which, if made without consent of the

1839.

DOE dem.
EVANS
against
EVANS.

(a) 2 *Ld. Ray.* 1324.(b) 7 *Bing.* 664.(c) 10 *Bing.* 238.(d) 8 *B. & C.* 296.

landlord,

1839.

*Doe dem.
EVANS
against
EVANS.*

landlord, would have caused a forfeiture; and the Court will not give such a construction to the will as would destroy the estate. In 1 *Roll. Abr.* 429. tit. *Condition* (V), pl. 2. (translated and commented upon, 5 *Vin. Abr.* 155, tit. *Condition* (U. a), pl. (2.)), it is said that, "if lessee for years, upon condition not to alien without the assent of the lessor, makes his executor, and devises it to him, and the executor enters generally, the testator not being indebted to any body, this is a forfeiture of the condition." The meaning of the words "not being indebted," there, is, that if there were debts it would be taken that the party entered as executor and not as specific legatee. If he entered in the latter character a forfeiture would be incurred. *Knight v. Mory* (a), *Barry v. Stanton* (b), and *Berry v. Taunton* (c) also shew that a condition not to alien, or not to demise, is broken by devising. It was, indeed, said, in *Fox v. Swann* (d), that if lessee covenant not to assign without leave, and afterwards devise the term without leave, this is not a breach, "for a devise is not a lease." But the report is loose, and it does not appear that the dictum related to the main question in the case. In *Doe dem. Coore v. Clare* (e) the Court, in considering whether an instrument was a lease or only an agreement, noticed the circumstance that, if it had been a lease, a forfeiture would have ensued. [Lord Denman C. J. I think we cannot enter into such a consideration here. The parties may not have adverted to the consequences.] (g).

(a) *Cro. Elix.* 60. (b) *Cro. Elix.* 330. (c) *Cro. Elix.* 331.

(d) *Style*, 482. See *Crusoe dem. Blencowe v. Bugby*, 3 *Wils.* 234; *Doe dem. Goodbehere v. Bevan*, 3 *M. & S.* 353., judgment of Bayley J.; 2 *Williams on Executors*, 676. note (d), 2d ed.

(e) 2 *T. R.* 793.

(g) See, as to a similar point, the judgments in *Doe dem. Phillip v. Benjamin*, *antè*, pp. 650—653.

Clarke,

Clarke, Wilson, and W. M. James, contra, proposed to begin with the point as to forfeiture; but were desired by the Court to address themselves to the other parts of the case first: and this point was not afterwards gone into. As to the suggestion that *Ann Evans* took only a life estate; *Doe dem. Jeff v. Robinson* (a) is distinguishable from this case, because here the testator devises all his estate; there the devise was merely of "two closes," without any expression from which more than a grant for life could be inferred. Then as to the first question. The words of devise in this case were large enough to give *Ann Evans* the freehold property. *Tilley v. Simpson* (b) and *Jongima v. Jongima* (c), decide that, where a testator uses words comprehending all his personal property, and adds to them "estate," that word will carry realty. Here the words are "money, securities for money, goods, chattels, and estate and effects." "The word 'goods' is *nomen generalissimum*, and when construed in the abstract, the term will embrace all the personal estate of a testator:" 1 *Roper on Legacies*, 222, 3d ed. And in *Campbell v. Prescott* (d) (cited, 1 *Roper on Legacies*, 250.), where the testator bequeathed "all" his "sugar-house cupola and merchandize stock with jewels plate household goods furniture and all effects whatsoever," the word "effects" was held to carry the general residue. [Coleridge J. In the present devise, independently of the term "estate," there are more than sufficient words to carry the personalty.] It is not denied that there may, at all events, be unnecessary words; but, if expressions are used by which all the

1839.

Doe dem.
EVANS
against
EVANS.

(a) 8 B. & C. 296.

(b) 2 T. R. 659. note (b). S. C. 1 Cox, 362.

(c) 1 Cox, 362.

(d) 15 Ves. 500. See p. 503.

personalty

1839.

DOE dem.
EVANS
against
EVANS.

personalty is given, and a word follows which, taken in its ordinary sense, may refer, not to the personalty but to something else, it is probable at least that such reference was intended. In *Doe, lessee of Wall, v. Langlands (a)*, the word "property," followed by "goods and chattels," was held to pass real estate. And in *Noel v. Hoy (b)*, where the testator made his wife "the sole executrix of this my will, thereby bequeathing to her all the property of whatever description or sort that I may die possessed of, to be by her appropriated in any manner she may think proper" &c., copyhold was held to pass. It was contended that the words "appropriated" and "possessed" were inconsistent with such a construction, but Sir John Leach, Vice-Chancellor, said the criticism was too nice.

Of the cases cited on the other side, *Doe dem. Bunny v. Rout (c)* is the principal. But there the term "estate" was not used; the residuary words were "every other thing, my property," an expression, in itself, more applicable to chattels than realty; and it was not clear that, without these last words, all the personal property would have passed. In *Timewell v. Perkins (d)* "estate" was mentioned, but its operation was confined by the words which followed, "consisting in ready money," &c. Lord Chancellor Cowper's dictum in *Cliffe v. Gibbons (e)* appears too general when compared with later authorities. Lord Ellenborough, in *Doe dem. Hick v. Dring (g)*, distinguishes between the words "estate" and "effects," saying, "We have a familiar meaning attached to the word effects, in its common use, and as it is used in

(a) 14 East, 370.

(b) 5 Madd. 38.

(c) 7 Taunt. 79. S. C. 2 Marsh. 397.

(d) 2 Atk. 102.

(e) 2 Ld. Ray. 1324.

(g) 2 M. & S. 448.

the statutes relating to bankrupts, where estate and effects, *reddendo singula singulis*, denote, the one things personal, the other things real." In *Woollam v. Kenworthy* (a) Lord Eldon C. assented to the proposition that, "where there are no special circumstances, real estate will pass" by the words "all my estate and effects," without more; and the same rule of construction applies to the word "property;" *Edwards v. Barnes* (b).

1839.

DOX dem.
EVANS
against
EVANS.

Cur. adv. vult.

LORD DENMAN C. J. now delivered the judgment of the Court. The question was, whether, under the circumstances of this will, it was to be considered that the heir at law was passed over, and the testator's interest in the lands devised to *Anne Evans*, through whom the defendants claimed. And we think, advertng to the doctrine of Lord Hardwicke in *Tilley v. Simpson* (c), that of Lord Kenyon in *Jongsma v. Jongsma* (d), and the later cases in which the same principle has been acted upon as in those decisions, that the realty does pass by the word "estate" in this will, the term used being capable of passing it, and the accompanying words being satisfied by reference to the personal property. The rule will therefore be absolute.

Rule absolute.

(a) 9 Ves. 137.

(b) 2 New Ca. 252.

(c) 2 T. R. 659, note (b). S. C. 1 Cox, 362.

(d) 1 Cox, 362.

1839.

Thursday,
January 31st.

In the Matter of The Examiners of Attorneys.

A candidate for admission to practise as an attorney having failed, on examination, to satisfy the Examiners, the Court, under particular circumstances, made an order that, if, on re-examination in the next term, he should obtain his certificate, he might be admitted without having given a fresh term's notice under *Reg. Gen. Hil. 6 W. 4. s. 4.*

SIR W. W. FOLLETT moved that a party might, in the next term, on obtaining his certificate from the Examiners, be admitted an attorney of this Court without giving a term's notice. The party applying deposed that, expecting to pass his examination and be admitted this term, he had made arrangements to join *A. and B.*, practising attorneys in one of the colonies (which he named). That it was of considerable importance to his interests in the profession that he should do so as early as possible after *March* next, the month in which he had arranged to join the above-named attorneys. That, not being sufficiently prepared, he had failed, on his examination under *Reg. Gen. Hil. 6 W. 4. (a)*, to satisfy the examiners; and their secretary had informed him that they could not then give him a certificate to enable him to be admitted and practise, but that they would take his examination next term, if this Court would authorise them to do so without a fresh term's notice (*b*).

Per Curiam (c),

Ordered, that the examiners appointed &c. be at liberty to examine the said *C. D.* next *Easter* term, and, in the event of the said *C. D.* obtaining the usual certificate on such

(a) 4 *A. & E.* 745, 746.

(b) See *In the Matter of The Examiners of Attorneys*, 8 *A. & E.* 745.

(c) Lord Denman C. J., Littledale, Williams, and Coleridge Js.

examination,

examination, that he be sworn, enrolled, and admitted an attorney of this Court without giving a term's notice.

1839.

In the Matter of
The
Examiners of
Attorneys.

The QUEEN *against* The Trustees and Managers of the NORTHWICH Savings' Bank.

Thursday,
January 31st.

A RULE nisi was obtained in the last term for a mandamus, calling on the above trustees and managers to refer to arbitration, according to stat. 9 G. 4. c. 92. s. 45., a dispute between the bank and *Thomas Lyon*, touching a deposit of 163*l.* which *Lyon* alleged to have been placed in the bank by his late wife. She died in 1826; and *Lyon* stated that he had since made several applications to the trustees for her deposit, but without success; and that his circumstances and situation in life had prevented his taking any other step.

The trustees put in affidavits giving an answer to the application on the merits; and they also relied upon a rule of the bank, in force when the 163*l.* was deposited, by which any claim for the funds of a deceased depositor was barred, if not made within seven years from his death. The present demand had not been so made.

The Court will not grant a mandamus re-, quiring trustees of a Savings' Bank to refer a dispute to arbitration under stat. 9 G. 4. c. 92. s. 45., where it is clear that the enquiry could have no result.

As where, by a rule of the bank, no deposit can be claimed after the expiration of seven years from the death of the depositor, and a claim, which it is proposed to refer, was confessedly not made within that time.

Evans now shewed cause, and stated the above-mentioned rule. The Court then called upon

Wightman, contra. It is clear that the wife's deposit was in the hands of the trustees; they deny that it is now due. That raises one of the disputes which, by the express provision of the statute, are to be referred to

arbitration.

1839.
 The QUEEN
 against
 The
 NORTHWICH
 Savings' Bank.

arbitration. The objection, that the claim is barred by lapse of time, may be fit for discussion before the arbitrator; but *Rea v. The Mildenhall Savings' Bank* (a) shews that such a suggestion ought not to prevent the reference. There may have been some waiver of the objection by the trustees. It is sufficient for the purpose of this application that a dispute exists. Enactments framed for the purpose of saving expense in cases of this kind should be liberally construed.

LORD DENMAN C. J. The preliminary objection is properly taken. The depositor has been dead twelve years; and a rule of the bank, which was part of the constitution of the society, barred any claim after seven. We cannot help seeing that the enquiry would be one which could have no result.

LITLEDALE, WILLIAMS, and COLERIDGE Js. concurred.

Rule discharged.

(a) 6 A. & E. 952.

1839.

Case of LEONARD WATSON and Others.

IN the last vacation twelve writs of habeas corpus were obtained, on application to *Littledale J.* at chambers, severally directed to the person or persons having the custody

At common law, a Judge of the Court of King's Bench may grant in vacation a writ of *habeas corpus ad subjiciendum*, returnable *immediatè* at chambers, to bring up the body of a party in custody in execution of a criminal sentence.

After the return to the *habeas corpus* has been put in and read, it is considered as filed; but the Court has nevertheless power to amend it.

The return to a *habeas corpus*, directed to the gaoler of *Liverpool*, set out a statute of *Upper Canada* (passed after stat. 5 G. 4. c. 84.), to enable the government thereof to extend a conditional pardon to persons concerned in the late insurrection, whereby it was enacted that, on the petition of any person charged with high treason there committed, preferred, before arraignment, to the Lieutenant Governor, confessing such person's guilt, and praying for pardon, the Lieutenant Governor might grant a pardon on such conditions as might appear proper, which pardon was to have the effect of an attainder for high treason, so far as regarded realty and personalty; and that, where a person, pardoned on condition of transportation or banishment from the province, should return, contrary to the condition, this should be a capital felony; the return also set out other statutes (passed after stat. 5 G. 4. c. 84.), whereby it appeared that both transportation and banishment were inflicted in certain cases by the criminal law of *Upper Canada*, and that they were also imposed as commutations for the punishment of death in cases of capital conviction; the place of transportation, in either case, to be declared under the sign manual of the Lieutenant Governor. The return then stated that the prisoner, having been indicted for high treason, had, before arraignment, petitioned, confessed, and prayed for pardon, and had been pardoned on condition of being transported for his life to *Van Diemen's Land*, to which he had assented; that, there being no means of transporting him thither directly from *Upper Canada*, it was necessary to take him to *Quebec*, in *Lower Canada*, being the most convenient place for the purpose; and that he was conveyed, by warrant of the Lieutenant Governor of *Upper Canada*, to *Lower Canada*; and, on his arrival there, was, by warrant of the Governor of *Lower Canada*, delivered into the custody of the sheriff of *Quebec*, for safe keeping till he could be transported; that, there being no means of conveying the prisoner directly from *Lower Canada* to *Van Diemen's Land*, it was necessary to convey him to *England*, to be taken thence to *Van Diemen's Land*; and that, by letters patent of the Queen under the Great Seal of *Lower Canada*, the master of the bark *C.* was commanded to receive the prisoner from the sheriff of *Quebec*, and carry him to such part of *Great Britain* as should seem fit to the Queen, that he might be thence transported to *Van Diemen's Land*, and to deliver him, in *England*, to the custody of such person as should be authorized to receive him; that the master received him from the sheriff, and carried him to *Liverpool*, which place seemed fit to the Queen, and was the most convenient in that behalf; and, there not being means ready to convey him to *Van Diemen's Land*, it was necessary to place him in safe custody till means could be provided; and that, the gaol of *Liverpool* being the most fit custody, the master delivered him to the gaoler, who kept him in custody, while such means were preparing: Held, a good return. For

(1) The provincial legislature, under stat. 31 G. 3. c. 31., had the power to pass laws for transportation *extra fines*, which power is recognized in stat. 5 G. 4. c. 84. s. 17.; and they might empower the governor to pardon on such conditions "as might appear proper." Therefore

(2) The condition of transportation might here be legally annexed to the pardon, with the prisoner's assent.

(3) The crown had a right to enforce the condition;

Queen's subjects, without

the

1839.

LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

the province of
Upper Canada,
were justified
in assisting, the
province not
being a foreign
country.

(4) It was
not necessary
that the return
should specially
set out the
documents re-
ferred to.

(5) The
Crown might
appoint *Van
Diemen's Land*
as a place of
transportation,
and the Court
would presume
that proper
steps had been
taken for the
prisoner's re-
ception there.

A similar re-
turn held good,
where the con-
dition was
transportation
for fourteen
years from the
prisoner's ar-
rival in *Van
Diemen's Land*.

The like, where the returns stated capital convictions for high treason and felony, and commutations of the sentences, not specifying the treason or felony.

Held, also, that the return must be taken to be true on the motion to discharge out of custody; and need not be verified by affidavit. *Quære*, whether there be any and what mode (other than by action) of impeaching the truth of such a return, or of introducing new matter?

It appeared, on affidavit, that in the mandatory part of the letters patent addressed to the master of the bark, the prisoner's name was omitted, though it stood in the recital; and that the return, as originally drawn, had set out the letters patent, which were also incorrect in other particulars; but that the present return, stating the substance as above, had been drawn by counsel, and filed instead of the original return.

Held, that the gaoler might substitute a return drawn by counsel for that originally prepared.

It appearing by affidavit that the omission of the name was unknown to the gaoler, an attachment against him was refused, though the Court considered him blameable for negligence.

Held, that the letters patent were immaterial; but that, had the return been intentionally false, the gaoler would not have been protected by the immateriality, nor by the circumstance that the prisoner had not been injured by the falsehood.

custody of *Leonard Watson, John Goldsbury Parker, Randall Wixon, James Brown, Finlay Malcolm, Robert Walker, Ira Anderson, John Grant, William Alves, Paul Bedford, Lynus Wilson Miller, and William Reynolds*, and commanding such person or persons to bring the body of the party before the Lord Chief Justice, or such other Judge as should be at chambers, immediately after the receipt of the writ, together with the day and cause of his being taken and detained, to undergo &c. The writs were dated 26th November, 2 Victoria (the last day of *Michaelmas* term 1838), and were obtained on the affidavits of *Joseph Hume* and *John Arthur Roebuck*, Esquires, stating that the prisoners (some of whom were referred to in one affidavit, and some in the other) were, as the deponents believed, illegally detained in the borough gaol of *Liverpool*, having been brought to *Liverpool* from *Upper Canada* contrary to their wishes, some not having been tried or sentenced, and some not having been legally accused or called on to plead.

On *Saturday, 12th January*, in this term, Sir *J. Campbell*, Attorney-General, having mentioned the case in court, it was agreed by the counsel on both sides that the prisoners should be brought up, and the validity of the

returns

returns discussed, in full Court; Lord *Denman* C. J. saying that, had the case been argued at chambers, it would have been thought right that other Judges, besides the one sitting at chambers, should attend the hearing; and that it was unnecessary to go through the form of bringing the prisoners up at chambers and adjourning to the full Court.

1839.

LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

In the same term, *Monday* 14th *Jannary*, the prisoners were brought up in full Court (a). The returns were then put in. The return in the case of *Leonard Watson* was read, which was as follows.

RETURN.

"I, *William Batchelder*, keeper of her Majesty's gaol of and for the borough of *Liverpool*, in the writ to this schedule annexed named, do certify and return, in obedience to the said writ, that, by a certain statute of her Majesty's province of *Upper Canada* in *North America* (b), intituled "An act to enable the government of this province to extend a conditional pardon in certain cases to persons who have been concerned in the late insurrection," made and passed in the first year of the reign of her present Majesty, by the Queen's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the legislative council and assembly of the said province, under and by virtue of a certain act of parliament, made and passed in the thirty-first year of the reign of his late Majesty King *George the Third*, intituled "An act to repeal certain parts of an act passed in the fourteenth year of his Majesty's reign, intituled 'An act for making more effectual provision for the government of the province of *Quebec* in *North America*,' and to make further provision for the government of the said province," and which first-mentioned statute was duly passed by the legislative council and assembly of the said province of *Upper Canada*, and assented to in her Majesty's name by the person who had been appointed, and was, at the time of passing the said first-mentioned statute as aforesaid, by her Majesty (c), to be the Governor of the said province of *Upper Canada*, it was, among other things, enacted (d) that upon the petition of any person charged with high treason committed in the said province, preferred to the Lieutenant Governor before the arraignment of such prisoner (e), and praying to be pardoned for his offence, it should and might be lawful for the Lieutenant Governor of the said province, by and with the advice and consent of the executive council thereof, to grant, if

Stat. *Upper
Canada*, 1 *Vict.*
c. 10.

(a) Before Lord *Denman* C. J., *Littledale*, *Williams*, and *Coleridge* Js.

(b) 1 *Vict.* c. 10. (Passed 6th *March* 1838.)

(c) Sic.

(d) Sect. 1.

(e) Sic in return; "person" in the statute.

1839.

LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.Watson in-
dicted.

Petition.

Pardon, on
terms assented
to by W.

it should seem fit, a pardon to such person, in her Majesty's name, upon such terms and conditions as might appear proper; which pardon, being granted under the Great Seal of her Majesty's said province, and reciting in substance the prayer of such petition, should have the same effect as an attainder of the person therein named for the crime of high treason, as far as regarded the forfeiture of his estate and property, real and personal. And I do further certify that, after passing the said first-mentioned statute, to wit at a special session of oyer and terminer and gaol delivery, begun and holden at *Toronto*, in the home district of the said province, on *Thursday* the 8th day of *March*, in the first year of the reign of her said Majesty, before the Honourable *John Beverley Robinson*, Chief Justice of the said province, and others, his fellows, justices and commissioners of our said Lady the Queen, under and by virtue of her said Majesty's commission under the Great Seal of the said province, issued in pursuance of another statute (a) of her Majesty's said province duly passed in the same manner and by the same authority as the said first-mentioned statute, on the 12th day of *January* in the first year of her Majesty's reign, and intituled "An act to provide for the more effectual and impartial trial of persons charged with treason and treasonable practices committed in this province," the said *Leonard Watson* was indicted for the crime of high treason; and, before the arraignment of the said *Leonard Watson*, he, the said *Leonard Watson*, humbly petitioned the Lieutenant Governor of the said province, in accordance with the said statute first herein mentioned, confessing his guilt of the treason charged against him as aforesaid, and professing his penitence, and praying for the merciful consideration of his case, and that her Majesty's gracious pardon might be extended to him upon such conditions as the said Lieutenant Governor of the said province, by and with the advice of the said executive council, should see fit: and the said Lieutenant Governor, by and with the advice of the said executive council, did, in her said Majesty's behalf, consent that mercy should be extended to him, the said *Leonard Watson*, upon the conditions following; (that is to say) that the said *Leonard Watson* be transported, and remain transported, to her Majesty's penal colony of *Van Diemen's Land*, for and during the term of his natural life; to which terms and condition the said *Leonard Watson* did assent; and the said Lieutenant Governor did thereupon, in her Majesty's name, on the 22d of *October* in the year of our Lord 1838 aforesaid, by letters patent under the Great Seal of the said province of *Upper Canada*, dated the day and year last aforesaid, pardon, remit, and release the said *Leonard Watson* of and from all and every punishment whatsoever which might be inflicted upon him, the said *Leonard Watson*, by reason of the treason so as aforesaid confessed by him, upon condition, nevertheless, that he, the said *Leonard Watson*, should be transported, and remain transported, to the said penal colony of *Van Diemen's Land*, for and during the term of his natural life. And

(a) Stat., *Upper Canada*, 1 Vict. c. 2.

I do further certify and return that, there being no means of transporting the said *Leonard Watson* directly from *Upper Canada* aforesaid to *Van Diemen's Land* aforesaid, it became and was necessary to take him to *Quebec* in her Majesty's province of *Lower Canada* in *North America*, for the purpose of carrying the said condition in the said pardon into effect, the said place called *Quebec* being the readiest and most convenient place for that purpose: whereupon, and in order to carry the said condition into effect, the said *Leonard Watson* was, after the said pardon, conveyed, by the authority and warrant of the said Lieutenant Governor of *Upper Canada*, from the said province of *Upper Canada* unto (a) the said province of *Lower Canada*, and was there, upon his arrival in *Lower Canada* aforesaid, by virtue of a warrant, in that behalf, of Sir *John Colborne*, Governor of the said province of *Lower Canada*, delivered into the custody of the sheriff of the district of *Quebec* in *Lower Canada* aforesaid, for safe keeping, until he could be transported according to the said condition, the same being the proper and most convenient custody in that behalf. And I do further certify and return that, there not being any means of conveying the said *Leonard Watson* directly from *Lower Canada* aforesaid to *Van Diemen's Land* aforesaid, according to the said condition, it became and was necessary, in order to carry the said condition into effect, to convey the said *Leonard Watson* to *England*, to be taken from thence to *Van Diemen's Land*, in fulfilment of the said condition: and thereupon afterwards, to wit on the 17th day of *November* 1838, by certain letters patent of our said Lady the Queen, bearing date the day and year last aforesaid, and sealed with the Great Seal of the province of *Lower Canada*, and directed to one *Digby B. Morton*, master of the bark *Captain Ross*, our said Lady the Queen commanded the said master to receive the said *Leonard Watson* from the said sheriff of the district of *Quebec*, in the said province of *Lower Canada*, in whose custody the said *Leonard Watson* then was as aforesaid; and that the said master should forthwith transport and convey, or cause to be transported and conveyed, the said *Leonard Watson* to such part of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain* and *Ireland* called *England* as to our said Lady the Queen might seem fit, to the end that the said *Leonard Watson* might be thence again transported to her Majesty's said penal colony of *Van Diemen's Land*, according to the said condition in the said pardon; and that the said master should there, to wit in *England* aforesaid, deliver the body of the said *Leonard Watson* into the custody of such person or persons as might be lawfully authorised to receive the same. And I do further certify and return, in obedience to the said writ, that the said *Digby B. Morton*, so being master of the said bark, did, in obedience to the said last-mentioned letters patent, receive the body of the said *Leonard Watson* from the said sheriff of the said district of *Quebec*, and take him on board the said bark, and bring him to *Liverpool* in *England* aforesaid, the same being a place which seemed fit

1839.

LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.Removal to
Lower Canada.Governor's
warrant, *Upper*
Canada.Governor's
warrant, *Lower*
Canada.Removal to
England be-
came neces-
sary.Queen's letters
patent.Removal to
England.

(a) See post, p. 771. note (a).

1839.

LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

Detention at
Liverpool.

to her said Majesty, and which was the most proper and convenient in that behalf, to the end that the said *Leonard Watson* might be thence again transported to *Van Diemen's Land*, as aforesaid: And, the said *Digby B. Morton* having arrived with the said ship at *Liverpool* as aforesaid, to wit on the 17th day of *December* last, with the said *Leonard Watson* on board thereof, and there not being the means immediately ready for conveying him from *Liverpool* aforesaid to *Van Diemen's Land* as aforesaid, it became and was necessary that the said *Leonard Watson* should be placed in some safe custody until the means could be provided for conveying him to *Van Diemen's Land* as aforesaid: And, the said gaol of and for the said borough of *Liverpool* being the fittest and most convenient place for that purpose, he, the said *Digby B. Morton*, did, on the day and year last aforesaid, deliver the said *Leonard Watson* into my custody at *Liverpool* aforesaid; and I have kept him in my custody whilst means have been and are preparing with all possible dispatch for the causing the said *Leonard Watson* to be transported to *Van Diemen's Land* as aforesaid. And these are the causes of my detaining the said *Leonard Watson* in my custody, and whose body I have ready, as by the said writ I am commanded."

Sir *John Campbell*, Attorney-General, Sir *W. M. Rolfe*, Solicitor-General, Sir *F. Pollock* and *Wightman* appeared for the Crown, and *Hill*, *Falconer*, *Roebuck* and *Fry* for the prisoner.

The Counsel for the Crown. The prisoners must be remanded upon a preliminary objection. This is not a case in which a judge in vacation can issue a writ of habeas corpus returnable before himself at chambers. The question is important, with a view to the general law on the subject; but the prisoners, if the objection prevail, will not suffer by it; as the objections to the returns may be discussed on a different course of proceeding. A motion for a habeas corpus at common law must be made in term time, and reasons stated for the motion. This appears from *Hobhouse's Case* (a), and the authorities there cited. Now the writ in the present instance must be considered as one at common

(a) 3 B. & Ald. 420. S. C. 2 Chitt. Rep. 207.

law; for it is not authorized by any statute. The Habeas Corpus Act, stat. 31 C. 2. c. 2., does not apply to such a case. The prisoners are here committed in execution. Sect. 1 of stat. 31 C. 2. c. 2. shews that the grievance which that statute was intended to redress was the delay of the trial of prisoners committed on criminal charges. Sect. 2 directs that, where the commitment is not for treason or felony, plainly and specially expressed in the warrant of commitment, the prisoner shall be brought before the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Keeper of the great seal, or the judges or barons of the Court from whence the writ shall issue, or such other person or persons before whom the writ shall be made returnable: and, by sect. 3, if any person be committed or detained for any crime, unless for felony or treason plainly expressed in the warrant, in the vacation time, and out of term, it shall be lawful for the person or persons so committed or detained ("other than persons convict or in execution by legal process") to complain to the Lord Chancellor or Lord Keeper, or any justice, either of the one bench or of the other, or the barons of the exchequer of the degree of the coif, who, on request, and view of the copy of the warrant, or oath made that a copy is denied, are to award the habeas corpus under the seal of the Court to which the judge, &c., belongs, returnable *immediatè* before the said Lord Chancellor, or Lord Keeper, or such justice, &c., who shall, within two days after the party is brought before them, discharge him on his recognizance to appear in the proper Court; unless it appear that the party is detained on legal process for matters in law for which he is not bailable. Sect. 7 provides for bringing speedily to trial parties committed for treason or felony
plainly

1839.

 LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

1839.

 LEONARD
WATSON'S
CASE.

plainly or specially expressed in the warrant. From the nature of these provisions it is clear that this statute relates only to parties committed on a criminal charge previously to trial. Then stat. 56 G. 3. c. 100. (commonly called *Onslow's Act*) recites (sect. 1) that stat. 31 C. 2. c. 2., and the Irish "Act for better securing the liberty of the subject" (a), "only extend to cases of commitment or detainer for criminal or supposed criminal matter;" and enacts, "That where any person shall be confined or restrained of his or her liberty, (otherwise than for some criminal or supposed criminal matter, and except persons imprisoned for debt or by process in any civil suit,)" "it shall and may be lawful for any one of the Barons of the Exchequer, of the degree of the coif, as well as for any one of the justices of one Bench or the other," "and they are hereby required, upon complaint made to them by or on the behalf of the person so confined or restrained, if it shall appear by affidavit or affirmation (in cases where by law an affirmation is allowed) that there is a probable and reasonable ground for such complaint, to award in vacation time, a writ of *habeas corpus ad subjiciendum*, under the seal of such court, whereof he or they shall then be judges or one of the judges, to be directed to the person or persons in whose custody or power the party so confined or restrained shall be, returnable immediately before the person so awarding the same, or before any other judge of the Court under the seal of which the said writ issued." This statute, therefore, does not apply to detainees under execution upon criminal process, but to such cases as the confinement of a wife by her husband, or the improper carrying away of a child

(a) *Irish stat. 21 & 22 G. 3. c. 11.*

by its mother. [Coleridge J. In *Ex parte Beeching* (a) the statute was applied to the case of a party detained upon a charge of smuggling.] That was a commitment merely to enforce a penalty, which was considered as a civil matter. This appears by the authority on which *Ex parte Beeching* (a) was decided, *The Attorney General v. Bowman* (b). [Coleridge J. Are you justified in assuming that a common law *habeas corpus ad subjiciendum* cannot issue in vacation returnable in vacation? In 3 *Blackst. Com.* 131. it is said, "This is a high prerogative writ, and therefore by the common law issuing out of the Court of King's Bench not only in term time, but also during the vacation, by a fiat from the chief justice or any other of the judges, and running into all parts of the king's dominions: for the king is at all times entitled to have an account, why the liberty of any of his subjects is restrained, wherever that restraint may be inflicted. If it issues in vacation, it is usually returnable before the judge himself who awarded it, and he proceeds by himself thereon; unless the term should intervene, and then it may be returned in Court."] The last sentence must be considered as applicable only to writs under stat. 31 C. 2. c. 2.; otherwise the doctrine seems unfounded. [The *Counsel for the prisoners* stated that they supported the proceeding as one at common law.] In *Brass Crosby's Case* (c) the party was committed by a warrant of the Speaker of the House of Commons, and brought before the Court of Common Pleas by *habeas corpus* moved for and returnable in term time: and it seems to have been understood that the writ at

1839.

 LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

(a) 4 B. & C. 136.

(b) Note (a) to *Huntley v. Luscombe*, 2 B. & P. 532.

(c) 2 W. Bl. 754. 3 C. 3 Wils. 188.

common

1839.

LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

common law could not be taken out and made returnable before a judge in vacation. For the reporter, Sir *W. Blackstone*, says, at the end of the report, "This was an habeas corpus at common law. An application had been made, in the preceeding vacation, to Lord *Mansfield*, Chief Justice of the King's Bench, and Lord Chief Justice *De Grey*, separately, to discharge the Lord Mayor, and Mr. Alderman *Oliver*, who was in the same situation, by a habeas corpus, under the statute 31 *Car. 2.* But they were then remanded." Thus, the case not being considered within stat. 31 *Car. 2. c. 2.*, and the common law remedy being therefore resorted to, that was attempted by an application in term time. [*Coleridge J.* referred to *Crowley's Case (a)*]. There Lord *Eldon* decided, upon a review of all the authorities, that the Court of Chancery had the power in vacation, over-ruling Lord *Nottingham's* decision in *Jenkes's Case (b)*, which is supposed to have been the cause of the passing of stat. 31 *C. 2. c. 2.* Lord *Eldon's* decision is perfectly consistent with the doctrine now contended for on the part of the Crown. Properly speaking, the three common law courts act only in term time, except under particular statutes: but the Court of Chancery, being the *officina justitiæ*, is always open. Here the writ, though tested (by fiction) in term-time, is returnable before a Judge at chambers (*c*); and, indeed, it is doubtful whether even the teste ought to have been dated in term time; for, although ordinary writs, of many kinds, may be so tested, yet, where, by express statute or defined practice, a writ ought to issue

(a) 2 *Swanst.* 1.

(b) 6 *How. St. Tr.* 1189. And in *Crowley's Case*, 2 *Swanst.* 12, 83.

(c) The writs were not marked "per statutum" &c., under stat. 31 *Car. 2. c. 2. s. 3.*

in a particular term, such fiction is inadmissible; *Regina v. Ricketts* (a). Lord Eldon, in *Crowley's Case* (b), cites Lord Coke's reading on Magna Charta, 2 *Inst.* 53, 55. (c), and 2 *Inst.* 552. (d), and 4 *Inst.* 81, 182.; in which passages the same distinction between the Court of Chancery and the Courts of law is clearly pointed to (e). If the power contended for existed at common law, much of the provisions of stat. 31 C. 2. c. 2. and stat. 56 G. 3. c. 100. would have been superfluous. And there is good reason for not extending the remedy by writ returnable before a single Judge to cases of commitment in execution: for it would be inexpedient that a single Judge at chambers should revise the judgment of a criminal court. In 4 *Bac. Abr.* 117. (g), *Habeas Corpus*, (B), 1., it is said, "It is clear, that both by the common law, as also by the statute, the Courts of Chancery and King's Bench have jurisdiction of awarding this writ of *habeas corpus*, and that without any privilege in the person for whom it is awarded. But it seems that, by the common law, the Court of King's Bench could have awarded it only in term-time, but that the Chancery might have done it as well out of as in term, because that Court is always open." In the same volume, p. 140., is a note giving an account of the opinions of the Judges upon questions put to them, in 1758, when it was proposed to introduce

1839.

 LEONARD
WATSON'S
CASE.

(a) 8 A. & E. 951. See p. 955.

(b) 2 *Swanst.* 48, &c.

(c) On stat. 9 Hen. 3. c. 29.

(d) On the *Articuli super Chartas*, 28 *Edw.* 1. stat. 3. c. 5.

(e) Lord Eldon adds, "It is quite clear here, that Lord Coke, when he wrote the fourth volume of his *Institutes*, still continued of opinion that the Court of King's Bench could grant the writ only in term time; an opinion which I think is not well founded, but which it is extremely difficult to deny would have been thought well founded, at the time when Lord Coke wrote." 2 *Swanst.* 50.

(g) 7th ed. And see 15 *Parl. Hist.* 898, &c.

1839.

LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

a bill which should contain provisions mainly corresponding with those in the statute afterwards passed, 56 G. 3. c. 100.: and it appears that there was great difference of opinion among them as to the power of the Judges in vacation, before, or independently of, stat. 31 C. 2. c. 2. The opinion of *Wilmot J.*, afterwards C. J. of C. P., is published at length in *Notes of Opinions and Judgments delivered by Sir John Eardley Wilmot*, p. 77. [Lord Denman C. J. referred to *Rex v. Shebbeare (a)*, *Rex v. Mead (b)*, *Rex v. Clarke (c)*. Coleridge J. *Blackstone*, 3 Com. 131., has this note. "The *pluries habeas corpus* directed to Berwick in 43 Eliz. (cited 4 Burr. 856. (d)), was *teste d die Jovis prox' post quinden' Sancti Martini*. It appears, by referring to the dominical letter of that year, that this *quindena* (Nov. 25.) happened that year on a Saturday. The Thursday after was therefore the 30th of November, two days after the expiration of the term." This appears to confirm his view in the text (e), that at common law the writ might be returnable in vacation.] Lord Eldon, in *Crowley's Case (g)*, remarks that *Blackstone* has given the history of the writ, "perhaps not altogether with his usual accuracy;" and he comments upon *Blackstone's* account at some length. In *Rex v. Shebbeare (a)* it was held that a habeas corpus, issued by the Chief Justice of the King's Bench in vacation and returnable *immediate*, ran on through the ensuing term, and did not require renewal. It does not, however, appear that this was not a case under stat. 31 C. 2. c. 2. (h): it took place after the passing of the act, and so did *Rex v.*

(a) 1 Burr. 460.

(b) 1 Burr. 542.

(c) 1 Burr. 606.

(d) The precedent is *Browley's Case*, cited in *Rex v. Cowle*, 2 Burr. 856., from *Richard Bourn's Case*, Cro. Jac. 543.(e) Cited, *antè*, p. 739.

(g) 2 Swanst. 39.

(h) See *Smollett's Hist. of England*, Reign of George the Second, vol. iv. p. 409. book iii. c. 30. ed. 1791. 2 *Starkie on Libel*, 164., note (i).

Mead

Mead (a) and *Rex v. Clarke* (b). Sect. 8 of stat. 16 C. 1. c. 10., which was the statute that abolished the Star-Chamber, enacts, "That if any person shall hereafter be committed, restrained of his liberty, or suffer imprisonment, by the order or decree of any such Court of Star-Chamber, or other Court aforesaid, now or at any time hereafter, having or pretending to have the same or like jurisdiction, power or authority to commit or imprison as aforesaid, or by the command or warrant of the King's Majesty, his heirs or successors, in their own person, or by the command or warrant of the council-board, or of any of the lords or others of his Majesty's privy council; that in every such case every person so committed, restrained of his liberty, or suffering imprisonment, upon demand or motion made by his counsel, or other employed by him for that purpose, unto the Judges of the Court of King's Bench or Common Pleas, in open court, shall without delay, upon any pretence whatsoever, for the ordinary fees usually paid for the same, have forthwith granted unto him a writ of *habeas corpus*, to be directed generally unto all and every sheriffs, gaoler, minister, officer or other persons in whose custody the party committed or restrained shall be, and the sheriffs, gaoler, minister, officer or other person in whose custody the party so committed or restrained shall be, shall at the return of the said writ, and according to the command thereof, upon due and convenient notice thereof given unto him," &c., "bring or cause to be brought the body of the said party so committed or restrained unto and before the Judges or justices of the said Court from whence the said writ

1839.

 LEONARD
WATSON'S
CASE.

(a) 1 Bur. 542.

(b) 1 Bur. 606.

1839.

LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

shall issue, in open court, and shall then likewise certify the true cause of such his detainer or imprisonment, and thereupon the Court, within three court-days after such return made and delivered in open court, shall proceed to examine and determine whether the cause of such commitment appearing upon the said return be just and legal, or not, and shall thereupon do what to justice shall appertain, either by delivering, bailing or remanding the prisoner." These provisions clearly are applicable only to proceedings in full Court, and in term; and it is difficult to believe that the legislature, when this statute passed, considered that the Judges had individually a power to issue the writ in vacation, returnable immediately. In *Crowley's Case* (a) Lord *Eldon* treats it as "clear that under that act of *Car.* 1., the Courts of King's Bench and Common Pleas could not issue the writ in vacation." In 4 *Bac. Abr.* 123 (b), *Habeas Corpus*, (B), 4., it is said, with reference to the law antecedent to stat. 31 *C. 2. c. 2.*, "Notwithstanding the writ of *habeas corpus* be a writ of right, and what the subject is entitled to, yet the provision of the law herein was in a great measure eluded by the Judges being only enabled to award it in term-time." Therefore, although the learned Judge here did rightly in issuing the writ, the return shews want of jurisdiction in this particular course, and the prisoners should be remanded.

Lord DENMAN C. J., on the next day, *January* 15th, said:—The Court have considered the objection which was taken yesterday, and are of opinion that it is not necessary to hear the counsel for the prisoners against that objection. We have no doubt that we

(a) 2 *Swanst.* 44.

(b) 7th ed.

are bound by the practice which has now prevailed, for eighty years since the year 1758, of issuing writs of habeas corpus before Judges returnable *immediate*, and before themselves, in time of vacation. In 1758 a bill was introduced into the House of Lords for the purpose of remedying some of the defects in the law of habeas corpus, as it then stood : and, upon that occasion, a majority of the Judges consulted gave their opinion in the way I have now stated. Mr. Justice *Wilmot*, afterwards Lord Chief Justice, stated, as his ground, that, for at least eighty years, and probably before that time, the same practice had prevailed ; so that we have at least twice that period. They also refer to some cases of an earlier date. I am aware that we might have been extremely well entertained for several days in entering into an antiquarian discussion as to what quantity of writs might be found to have been issued, and what returns were extant, and how the records were kept : but it seems to me that we should be tampering with this great remedy of the subject, the writ of habeas corpus, if we did not say that we would abide by the practice we find, and deal with this as it has been formerly dealt with. Therefore, we will now proceed to inquire whether the return is sufficient. On the discussion in 1758, according to Mr. *Dodd's* very interesting account in his edition of *Bacon's Abridgment* (a), seven of the Judges, including the Chief Baron, Lord Chief Justice *Willes*, and Mr. Justice *Wilmot*, afterwards Chief Justice, were of the opinion I have stated. Mr. Justice *Foster* was not able to attend by reason of the death of his wife. He is well known to have been of the

1839.

 LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

(a) 7th ed. vol. iv. p. 140. *Habeas Corpus*, (B), 13., note. And see 15 *Parl. Hist.* 903.

1839.

LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

same opinion, and to have wished even to extend the remedy of the habeas corpus still further. Lord *Mansfield* was a member of the House of Lords at the time; and his opinion is well ascertained by his practice since that time (a): and the very fact of the bill, which had been introduced, being dropped is a pretty good proof of the opinion of Judges being consistent with the law as it then stood (b).

A question then arose, whether the return which had been read could be considered as filed, and whether, if filed, it could be amended: as to which *The Counsel for the Crown* cited an *Anonymous case* (c) in 1 *Mod.* The Court, after consulting Mr. *Dealtry*, said that the return was filed, but that they had the power to amend it

The Counsel for the prisoners then moved that *Watson* should be discharged. First, there is no conviction. The provincial act, 1 *Vict. c. 10.*, set out in the return, authorizes the Lieutenant-Governor, on petition by a person charged with high treason, preferred before arraignment, to pardon him, on such terms and conditions as may appear proper; which pardon is to have the effect of an attainder for high treason, so far as regards forfeiture of real and personal property. And the return recites the indictment of *Watson* for high treason, his petition before arraignment, his prayer for pardon, and a pardon on condition of transportation for life. Here is no conviction. There is, therefore, no authority by the *English* law for detaining the prisoner in *England*.

(a) *Hill* said, that this was also the view taken by Lord Chancellor *Hardwicke*. See 15 *Parl. Hist.* p. 898. (note), and p. 924. (note).

(b) See further, on this point, p. 779. post.

(c) 1 *Mod.* 102.

Stat. 5 G. 4. c. 84. s. 17. (a) applies only to convicts who have been convicted "by any Court or Judge." Here no judicial authority has acted, but only an executive one. It will probably be contended, on the other side, that what has here taken place is tantamount to a conviction; but such a construction of the terms of a penal statute is inadmissible. If the prisoner here has been convicted, how is error to be assigned on the conviction? How could he plead autrefois convict to a fresh indictment? This proceeding will be scrupulously watched by the Court, because the general principle of

1839.

LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

(a) Stat. 5 G. 4. c. 84. s. 17. "And whereas by the laws in force in some parts of his Majesty's dominions not within the United Kingdom, offenders convicted of certain offences are liable to be punished by transportation beyond the seas, and other convicts adjudged to suffer death in such parts of his Majesty's dominions have received or may receive his Majesty's most gracious pardon upon condition of transportation beyond the seas, and there may be no means of transporting such convicts to any of the places appointed by his Majesty in council in that behalf, without first bringing them to *England*; Be it therefore further enacted, that whenever any convict adjudged to transportation by any court or judge in any part of his Majesty's dominions not within the United Kingdom, or any convict adjudged to suffer death by any such court or judge, and pardoned on condition of transportation, have been or shall be brought to *England* in order to be transported, it shall or may be lawful to imprison any such offender in any place of confinement provided under the authority of this act, until such convict shall be transported, or shall become entitled to his liberty; and that so soon as every such convict shall be so imprisoned, all the provisions, rules, regulations, clauses, authorities, powers, penalties, matters and things aforesaid, concerning the safe custody, confinement, treatment and transportation of any offender convicted in *Great Britain*, shall extend and be construed to extend to every convict who may have been or may be hereafter adjudged to transportation by any court or judge in any part of his Majesty's dominions not within the United Kingdom, and to every convict adjudged by any such court or judge to suffer death, and pardoned on condition of transportation, and brought to *England* in order to be transported, as fully and effectually to all intents and purposes, as if such convict had been convicted and sentenced at any session of gaol delivery holden for any county within *England*."

1839.

LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

the law is to protect parties, who are subjected to legal process, from acts done by themselves in ignorance; an instance of which occurs in the Rule, *Hil. 2 W. 4. I. 72. (a)*, and the older rules in *pari materiâ (b)*. In fact, however, the provincial statute referred to *(c)* confines, by implication, the consequences of the pardon; for it enacts that the pardon "shall have the same effect as an attainder of the person therein named for the crime of high treason, *as far as regards the forfeiture of his estate and property, real and personal.*" It cannot be supposed that the provincial legislature, which found it necessary to insert these words, considered that the pardon was of itself tantamount to a conviction. But, further, stat. 14 G. 3. c. 83. s. 11., after reciting that "the certainty and lenity of the criminal law of *England*, and the benefits and advantages resulting from the use of it, have been sensibly felt by the inhabitants" of the province of *Quebec*, then comprehending both *Upper* and *Lower Canada*, enacts "that the same shall continue to be administered, and shall be observed as law in the province of *Quebec*, as well in the description and quality of the offence as in the method of prosecution and trial; and the punishments and forfeitures thereby inflicted to the exclusion of every other rule of criminal law, or mode of proceeding thereon, which did or might prevail in the said province before the year of our Lord 1764; any thing in this act to the contrary thereof in any respect notwithstanding; subject nevertheless to such alterations and amendments as the governor, lieutenant-governor, or commander in chief for the time being, by and with the advice and consent of the legislative council

(a) 3 B. & Ad. 384.

(b) 2 Stra. 902., and note (1) *ibid.*

(c) 1 Vict. c. 10.

of the said province, hereafter to be appointed, shall, from time to time, cause to be made therein, in manner hereinafter directed." Then stat. 31 G. 3. c. 31., which divided the province of *Quebec* into *Upper* and *Lower Canada*, enacts, sect. 33, "that all laws, statutes, and ordinances, which shall be in force on the day to be fixed in the manner hereinafter directed for the commencement of this act, within the said provinces, or either of them, or in any part thereof respectively, shall remain and continue to be of the same force, authority, and effect, in each of the said provinces respectively, as if this act had not been made, and as if the said province of *Quebec* had not been divided; except in so far as the same are expressly repealed or varied by this act, or in so far as the same shall or may hereafter, by virtue of and under the authority of this act, be repealed or varied by his Majesty, his heirs or successors, by and with the advice and consent of the legislative councils and assemblies of the said provinces respectively, or in so far as the same may be repealed or varied by such temporary laws or ordinances as may be made in the manner hereinafter specified." That leaves the law of *Upper Canada* on the footing either of the *English* law, or of laws passed in the province; as to which latter, the Court can recognize only what appears on the return; and the Court cannot see, on the return, any thing which gives, by the *Canadian* law, the effect of a conviction to the proceedings stated.

It may be questionable, whether an *English* Court of law will recognize such a statute as that set out in the return. No limit as to the severity of the conditions is imposed; it does not appear that torture or mutilation might not be inflicted as the condition of pardon. If it

1839.

 LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

1839.

 LEONARD
 WATSON'S
 Case.

be said that the prisoner has, according to the return, consented to the terms, the answer is, that the *English* law would not recognize the validity of such a contract, if, for instance, it authorized the commission of murder or mayhem.

This points out another objection to the return. No judgment of transportation, or of death commuted for transportation, has been passed. The consent of the party cannot be substituted for such a judgment; and, without the judgment, stat. 5 G. 4. c. 84. s. 17. is inapplicable. The power of the Crown to commute one sentence for another, even the more severe for the less, is, at least in modern times, rested upon statute merely (a). At all events, it is not communicable in *England*; stat. 27 H. 8. c. 24. s. 1. It has been said that in the colonies such a power is communicable from the Crown: but, even if that be so, the return sets out no letters patent, or other instrument, by which such a delegation may appear to have taken place in fact: and it is difficult to see how the provincial legislature of a colony can give this power, if not so communicated by the Crown.

But, further, supposing the power of commuting the punishment to exist, the return fails to shew any right in the governor of *Upper Canada* to transport beyond the limits of his own colony. He has no authority in *Van Diemen's Land*. Stat. 5 G. 4. c. 84. s. 17. applies to cases only where the power to transport beyond seas previously existed: it creates no such power. Even in the case of transportation from *Great Britain*, where convicts had been adjudged to transportation to one

(a) See the statutes cited in *Regina v. Baker*, 7 A. & E. 502.

colony,

colony, but had from accident or necessity been landed in another, the power to control or detain them in the latter failed; and this defect was remedied only by express statute, 11 G. 4. & 1 W. 4. c. 39. s. 1, &c.

Supposing that the power of transporting to *Van Diemen's Land* exists, it is not shewn to have been legally exercised. The return alleges the necessity of sending the prisoner to *Lower Canada*, and the warrant issued by the governor of *Upper Canada* for so sending him. That is all which the governor of *Upper Canada* appears by the return to have done. It is not shewn that he ordered any further step to be taken. Then the governor of *Lower Canada* commits the prisoner to the custody of the sheriff of *Quebec*; and it is said that, in order to convey the prisoner to *Van Diemen's Land*, it became necessary to send him from *Lower Canada* to *England*. But it is not shewn that any one had authority to send him from *Lower Canada* to *Van Diemen's Land* or elsewhere. The return states that *Liverpool* was a place which seemed fit to her Majesty, to the end that the prisoner might be transported to *Van Diemen's Land*. But the pleasure of the Crown, in this respect, could be signified only by some instrument, which should be set out. The assertion as to the pleasure of the sovereign, not authenticated by any responsible minister, is nugatory. Then, after the arrival of the prisoner at *Liverpool*, no ground is laid for the detainer, except that the gaoler states the borough gaol at *Liverpool* to have been the fittest and most convenient place for the detainer. But it is not shewn that any warrant was issued, or any authority given to the gaoler who made the return.

Finally, the return is defective in not setting out the instruments referred to. The Court ought to see them,

1839.

 LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

1839.

LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

so as to be enabled to judge of their legal effect; it is not sufficient that the party making the return takes upon himself to allege the result. It is returned that the prisoner confessed his guilt of the treason charged against him: but the Court should see whether the confession does amount to that, and what is the treason confessed. So the pardon should be set out, that the Court may judge of its effect, and whether the conditions are imposed legally, or, at all events, within the scope of the provincial statute. So the several warrants, if they exist, should be set out, *Rex v. Clerk (a)* shews that, where there is a commitment by warrant, it must be returned on habeas corpus: "for otherwise it would be in the power of the gaoler to alter the case of the prisoner, and make it either better or worse than it is upon the warrant; and if he may take upon him to return what he will, he makes himself judge; whereas the Court ought to judge, and that upon the warrant itself." It can be proved by affidavit that the gaoler did in fact shew a warrant. [*The Counsel for the Crown* objected to this being alluded to,] The rule, generally, is that the Court will look to a return only; but in the case of a return under stat. 31 *Car. 2. c. 2.* that rule seems inapplicable: for, by sect. 5, the party detaining is required, on demand, to give the prisoner a true copy of the warrant; and this can be only for the purpose of enabling the prisoner to check inaccuracies in the return. The act, as was pointed out in the argument in *Crowley's Case (b)*, "was designed not so much to confer new rights on the subject, as to provide new remedies for ancient rights." The Court cannot give effect to the

(a) 1 *Salk.* 349.(b) 2 *Swanst.* 8.

remedy unless they see the warrant. [Lord Denman C. J. In this stage of the argument, we can notice only what appears on the return.] That, at all events, strengthens the objection to the return in its present form, since it prevents the Court from seeing the true legal state of the proceedings.

The Counsel for the Crown. As to the objection that there is neither conviction nor judgment, it appears to be assumed that the detention is defended under the provisions of stat. 5 G. 4. c. 84. s. 17. But that section is material only from its distinctly recognising, by the recital, that the provincial legislatures have power to pass laws for the transportation of offenders beyond the seas, and that such convicts may be lawfully brought to *England* in order to transport them. The enacting part is of course inapplicable here. But it is suggested that, inasmuch as the power to detain in *England* persons convicted in the colonies, and there sentenced to transportation, required a legislative enactment, such detention is illegal in all cases to which the enactment does not apply. Now the clause does not shew that a legislative enactment was necessary for that purpose: the object of the whole statute is different. Sect. 10 gives the power of carrying into effect certain discipline with regard to convicts sentenced, or whose sentence has been commuted, to transportation. They may be confined in the hulks; and other steps may be adopted, which could not have been taken without statute; and the object of sect. 17 is, not to confer a power of detention, but to authorize applying the particular provisions of this act to persons convicted and sentenced to transportation in the colonies, and brought

1839.

LEONARD
WATSON'S
CASE.

1839.

LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

brought to *England* for the purpose of carrying the transportation into effect. That they may be so sentenced to transportation, under the colonial law, is assumed; and that, being so sentenced, they may be brought to *England* in order to carry the sentence into effect, is also assumed as a necessary consequence. This power is not created by sect. 17; but other powers are thereby engrafted upon it. None of the *English* acts of parliament (a) give the power of transportation except in cases of convictions in the United Kingdom. The right (recognized by stat. 5 G. 4. c. 84.) of the colonial legislatures to pass laws inflicting transportation rests, not on any express act of the *English* legislature, but on the authority incident to the provincial legislature, created by charter or otherwise. Stat. 14 G. 3. c. 83. s. 11. imported the *English* criminal law into *Canada*, and with it the power of transportation to the colonies. Then the legislature of *Upper Canada*, created by stat. 31 G. 3. c. 31., and not restricted by stat. 14 G. 3. c. 83. s. 11., has passed the provincial act 1 *Vict.* c. 10., part of which is set out in the return. That gives the Lieutenant-Governor the power of pardon, where the prisoner petitions, upon such terms and conditions as may appear proper. This Court does not sit on appeal against provincial statutes; nor will it rigidly inquire whether such statutes be strictly analogous to *English* law. Even in the case of the acts of a provincial tribunal this is not done; *Rex v. Suddis* (b). It is asked, whether the condition of mutilation or torture might be imposed. The objection to such a condition would be that it inflicted a punishment unknown to the law: but

(a) See acts referred to in *Regina v. Baker*, 7 A. & E. 502.

(b) 1 *East*, 306.

how

how can such an argument apply to a condition inflicting a punishment known and recognized by the law as within the powers of the colonial assembly, and less severe than the punishment attached to the offence of which the prisoner confesses himself guilty? The statute cannot be void on account of the generality of its language; for, if it be true that certain punishments, though imposed as conditions, would be illegal, then it follows that the conditions contemplated in the statute do not comprehend such punishments. Suppose the prisoner had been brought by habeas corpus before a court of *Upper Canada*, could such an objection have prevailed? If not, how can it prevail here? Suppose an *English* act of parliament gave this power to the Lieutenant-Governor of *Upper Canada*, there could then be no difficulty: but it cannot make any difference that, the *English* legislature having enabled the provincial legislature to pass acts, an act has been so passed which gives the power. It is true that there is, under the provincial act, no attainder except so far as regards real and personal property. But the return is not supported on the ground of there being any attainder at all, but as shewing a power to transport resulting from the conditional pardon. The clause relating to the property was inserted to prevent the incongruity of a party holding property in *Upper Canada*, who had confessed being guilty of treason, and who might, under the conditions of his pardon, be transported from the province. But this, of course, does not supersede the condition.

It is contended that no man can assent to his own transportation. Without a statute, he cannot: but he can, and his assent will be good, if a statute expressly enable

1839.

 LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

1839.

LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

enable him to do so. Here a statute does enable him, as the condition of being relieved from a more severe punishment. Such statutory consents are not unprecedented. In the Habeas Corpus Act, stat. 31 C. 2. c. 2. s. 14., it is enacted, "that if any person or persons lawfully convicted of any felony, shall in open court pray to be transported beyond the seas, and the court shall think fit to leave him or them in prison for that purpose, such person or persons may be transported into any parts beyond the seas," this act notwithstanding. That applies to the case of a party convicted of a felony which does not render him liable to transportation; and it enables him to consent to transportation, as it might have enabled him to do before conviction. Sect. 13 of the same statute provides "that nothing in this act shall extend to give benefit to any person who shall by contract in writing agree with any merchant or owner of any plantation, or other person whatsoever, to be transported to any parts beyond the seas, and receive earnest upon such agreement, although that afterwards such person shall renounce such contract." Here the power of a man, not accused of any crime, to "contract" for his own transportation is recognized. Pardons, in ancient times, were sometimes granted before arraignment, in order that they might be pleaded: and it is laid down in 4 *Hawk. P. C.* 354. Book 2. c. 37. s. 45. (a), that "the king may extend his mercy on what terms he pleases, and consequently may annex to his pardon any condition that he thinks fit, whether precedent or subsequent, on the performance whereof the validity of the pardon will depend."

(a) 7th, Leach's, edition.

Objections are made to the exercise of the power beyond the limits of the colony. The right so to exercise it is recognized by stat. 5 G. 4. c. 84. s. 17., as before pointed out. It is incident to the general power of penal enactment. Thus, stat. 5 G. 4. c. 84. s. 3. gives power to the Crown "to appoint any place or places beyond the seas, *either within or without his Majesty's dominions*, to which felons and other offenders under sentence or order of transportation or banishment shall be conveyed." It appears to be assumed, on the other side, that a country must discharge every prisoner who comes to it under the criminal process of another country. For the reasons given, this general question does not arise here; but it may well be doubted whether the assumption be warrantable.

It is suggested that, but for stat. 11 G. 4. & 1 W. 4. c. 39., there was no power to detain prisoners who, being sentenced to transportation in one penal colony, were of necessity first landed in another. But that is not the object of the statute. It provides for the permanent detention of prisoners in either of the colonies of *New South Wales* or *Van Diemen's Land*, who, having been ordered to one of those colonies, are left in the other, either from necessity or under the provisions specified in the act. Without the statute, the penal discipline could not have been applied to prisoners who were not in the colony to which they were ordered to be transported. The statute was passed to legalize this; not to authorize the touching at one colony in the way to the other, or the power of temporary detention there. It therefore does not shew that such power did not exist independently of that statute.

It is objected that the return does not shew how the
power

1839.

LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

1839.

LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

power to commute punishment has passed from the Crown to the Lieutenant-Governor. But it sets out the provincial statute giving that power, as here exercised, which statute is authorized by the *English* act, 31 G. 3. c. 31.

Then, if the power to transport exist, it follows that there is a power to do all necessary to give effect to the condition of transportation. Here the necessity is expressly alleged in the return. The Court cannot see that the necessity of passing through *Lower Canada*, and by the way of *England*, does not exist: and, if it will take judicial notice of the physical condition of the provinces, it must see that a passage through *Lower Canada* was inevitable. If no ship was sailing to *Van Diemen's Land* except by the way of *England*, that was the only course of transmission; and it cannot be contended that the prisoner, when he reached the *English* coast, was to be left in the ship, and out of harbour. Would the objection be good, in the case of a ship with convicts touching at the *Cape of Good Hope*?

It is objected that no warrant, authorizing the gaoler to detain, is alleged on the return. That is necessary in the case of a committal for trial, but not in the case of a committal under criminal sentence, nor in the case of carrying the conditions of a pardon into effect. *Rex v. Clerk (a)* shews that, where there is a commitment by warrant, the return must set forth the warrant; but in that case the distinction now insisted upon in support of the return is taken; for it is said, "where a commitment is in court to a proper officer there present, there is no warrant of commitment, and

(a) 1 Salk. 349.

therefore he cannot return a warrant *in hæc verba*, but must return the truth of the whole matter under peril of an action." That has been done here.

It is also objected that the return does not set out fully the several documents of which it alleges the effect. But the gaoler has to satisfy himself of the state of facts, and to aver the truth at his peril. Greater particularity is not required. In *Barne's Case* (a) it was ruled that in a return to a habeas corpus such precise certainty is not requisite, but it suffices if the Court by the return can be apprized of the substance of the matter. Here the return shews a detainer under competent authority, which is enough, as appears from *Brass Crosby's Case* (b). In *Rex v. Suddis* (c) the return by the Governor of *Portsmouth* to a habeas corpus stated that the prisoner, being a gunner in the royal artillery, in actual pay as a member of the garrison of *Gibraltar*, was tried by a court-martial, constituted under the authority of the king, according to the form of the statute, with power to try, hear, and determine crimes and offences in pursuance of the articles of war, "upon a certain charge exhibited against him before the same court-martial for certain offences alleged to have been committed by him at *Gibraltar* aforesaid;" and that the Court pronounced sentence that, having heard the evidence and defence, the Court was "of opinion that the prisoner *John Suddis* is guilty of receiving several pieces of printed cotton and two pieces of broad cloth stolen from the warehouse of Mr. *S. Watkins*, knowing them to be stolen, in breach of the articles of war, and doth therefore by virtue of the 4th article of the 24th section of

1839.

LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

(a) 2 *RoL. R.* 157.(b) 3 *Wils.* 188. *S. C.* 2 *W. Bl.* 754.(c) 1 *East*, 306.

1839.

 LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

the articles of war sentence him the said *John Suddis* to be transported as a convict to *Botany Bay* for the term of 14 years;" that the sentence was confirmed by the Governor of *Gibraltar*; who, to carry it into effect, caused the prisoner to be sent to *England* in custody, under which custody the prisoner arrived in *England*, and was landed at *Portsmouth* in such custody, and, for the cause and purpose aforesaid, was delivered by the person having the custody to the Governor of *Portsmouth*, to be kept till he should be sent to *Botany Bay* in pursuance of the sentence, and that he was detained for that purpose; that *S. Watkins* was a subject of the king; that no form of civil judicature existed at *Gibraltar*, having power to try a person in actual pay as a member of the garrison; and that the warehouse was at *Gibraltar*. That was held a good return. *Lawrence J.* said, "This is a return to a writ of habeas corpus made by the person in whose custody the party is placed in execution of his sentence. He cannot be taken to be cognizant of all the proceedings. It is enough that the Court had authority to award such a sentence. He returns the cause for which he detains the party in custody, namely, the judgment of such a court. This return I believe is as much as it has ever been usual to make in such cases." And *Le Blanc J.* said, "It is sufficient for the officer having him in his custody to return to the writ of habeas corpus, that a court having a competent jurisdiction had inflicted such a sentence as they had authority to do, and that he holds him in custody under that sentence."

But, lastly, supposing the return insufficient, this Court cannot discharge the prisoner. If the Lieutenant-Governor of *Upper Canada* had no authority to impose
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the condition of pardon, the prisoner is simply in the situation of a party against whom an indictment has been found for high treason within the colonial possessions of the crown. The pardon cannot stand, upon any supposition which annuls the power to impose the condition. By the Habeas Corpus Act, stat. 31 C. 2. c. 2. s. 16., "if any person or persons at any time residing in this realm, shall have committed any capital offence in *Scotland or Ireland*, or any of the islands, or foreign plantations of the king, his heirs or successors, where he or she ought to be tried for such offence, such person or persons may be sent to such place, there to receive such trial, in such manner as the same might have been used before the making of this act; any thing herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding." By "committed" the legislature did not mean the being convicted; for the party is to receive trial: the present case, therefore, where a bill of indictment has actually been found by the Grand Jury, would clearly be within the act. By stat. 35 H. 8. c. 2. s. 1. treasons, misprisions, or concealments of treasons, committed out of the realm, may be tried by this Court or under royal commission. In *Rex v. Kimberley* (a) a party was brought up by habeas corpus, having been committed for a felonious marriage against the provisions of an *Irish* statute (b), in order that he might be sent to *Ireland* to be tried; and, upon its being moved that he should be discharged or bailed, the Court remanded him; and he was afterwards carried to *Ireland*, tried, condemned, and executed. In *Rex v. Platt* (c) a magistrate for *Middlesex* had committed a party for high treason done in *America*; that was an improper

1839.

 LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

(a) 2 Str. 848.

(b) 6 Ann. c. 16.

(c) 1 Leach, C. C. 157.

1839.

LEONARD
WATSON'S
CASE.

commitment; but, the prisoner having applied, at a general gaol delivery at the *Old Bailey*, to be bailed and discharged, the Court refused to do either. Therefore, even admitting (which may be questioned) that this Court would set at liberty persons accidentally landed in *England*, while detained under the criminal process of a foreign country, this will not be done when the offence is one punishable by the laws of a part of Her Majesty's dominions, where it was committed.

The Counsel for the Crown then applied to amend the return, by inserting the whole of the provincial statute, 1 *Vict. c. 10*. *The Counsel for the prisoners* objected, but offered to consent if all the documents connected with the transactions stated in the return, including the provincial statutes authorizing transportation as a punishment, were also put in. The Court suggested that it was reasonable that the statutes should be set out, to which the counsel for the Crown assented; and the return was amended as follows.

At the beginning of the statement of the provincial act of *Upper Canada*, stat. 1 *Vict. c. 10*., between the words "Governor of the said province of *Upper Canada*" and the words "it was," antè, p. 733, the following words were inserted.

"Reciting (a) that there was reason to believe that among the persons concerned in the late treasonable insurrection in that province there were some to whom the lenity of the government might not improperly be extended, on account of the artifices used by desperate and unprincipled persons to seduce them from their allegiance."

At the end of the setting forth of the same statute (between the words "property real and personal" and

(a) Statute of *Upper Canada*, 1 *Vict. c. 10. s. 1*.

the words "And I," antè, p. 734.), the following words were inserted.

1839.

LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

"And (a) that in case any person should be pardoned under that act, upon condition of being transported or banishing himself from that province, either for life or for any term of years, such person, if he should afterwards voluntarily return to that province without lawful excuse, contrary to the condition of his pardon, should be deemed guilty of felony, and should suffer death as in case of felony.

"And I do further certify, that by another statute (b) of her said Majesty's province of *Upper Canada*, intituled 'An act to provide more effectually for the punishment of certain offences, and to enable the governor, lieutenant-governor, or person administering the government of this province, to commute the sentence of death, in certain cases, for other punishment in this act mentioned,' made and passed" 7 W. 4., "in the manner, and by the persons and authority, required for that purpose by the said act of parliament made and passed in the thirty-first year of the reign of his late Majesty King *George the Third*, after reciting (c) that it was expedient to make further provision for the effectual punishment of certain offences thereafter mentioned, it was enacted, that in case of the conviction of any person after the passing of that act, of any larceny; or of manslaughter; or of any assault with intent to commit any felony; or of felonious rescue; or of assaulting with any weapon a sheriff, or other peace officer, in the execution of his duty; or of any forgery which before the passing of that act was not punishable with death, with or without benefit of clergy; or of perjury; or of fraud; or cheating; or conspiracy; or of being accessory, before or after the fact, to larceny, or any other felony; or of receiving stolen goods; or of embezzlement; or of uttering or tendering in payment false or counterfeit money, resembling any of the gold or silver coins current in that province, knowing the same to be false or counterfeit; or of offence against a certain statute of that province, passed in the fiftieth year of the reign of his late Majesty King *George the Third*, entitled, 'An act for preventing the forging and counterfeiting of foreign bills of exchange, and of foreign notes and orders for the payment of money;' or of assisting in or attempting to effect the escape of a prisoner confined for a felony or other crime, before or after conviction; — the person convicted of such offence might be sentenced to such punishment as was then provided by law for any such offence; or if the court which was to pass sentence on such convict should think fit, might be sentenced to be imprisoned only, or imprisoned and kept to hard labour, or in solitary confinement in the common gaol, or in any penitentiary or house of cor-

(a) Statute of *Upper Canada*, 1 Vict. c. 10. s. 2.

(b) Statute of *Upper Canada*, 7 W. 4. c. 6.

(c) Sect. 1.

1839.

LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

rection that had been or might be provided in that province for such purpose, for any term not exceeding seven years : provided always, that where for any of the offences above mentioned a specified term of imprisonment was then assigned by law, no person should be sentenced, for such offence, to be imprisoned in a penitentiary or other place of confinement for a longer period than such specified term : and provided also, that in case a conviction should take place of any of the offences therein-before enumerated, except the offence of manslaughter, which before the passing of that act would have subjected the offender to any punishment provided by the act of the parliament of that province, passed in the third year of his then Majesty's reign, entitled, ' An act to reduce the number of cases in which capital punishment may be inflicted ; to provide other punishment for offences which shall no longer be capital after the passing of this act ; to abolish the privilege called benefit of clergy ; and to make other alterations in certain criminal proceedings before and after conviction '—such punishment should in no case be altered or affected by that act. And (a) that no court of general quarter sessions of the peace, or court having the like jurisdiction, should have power to sentence any person convicted before them, to be imprisoned in a penitentiary for a longer period than two years. And (b) that it should and might be lawful for the governor, lieutenant-governor, or person administering the government of that province, to commute the sentence of death, which might be passed upon any person convicted of a capital crime, other than high treason or murder, and, with authority from his Majesty, upon any person convicted of high treason or murder, — for transportation for life, or term of years, to such place in his Majesty's dominions as might be assigned for the reception of convicts ; or for banishment from that province for life, or any term of years ; or for solitary confinement ; or confinement with or without hard labour in any penitentiary or house of correction that might be appointed for such purposes, either during life, or for any term of years ; and that an instrument under the hand and seal of the governor, lieutenant-governor, or person administering the government of that province, declaring such commutation of sentence, should be sufficient authority to any of his Majesty's judges or justices in that province having jurisdiction in such cases, to make such orders, and give such directions, under his hand and seal, as might be requisite for the change of custody of such convict, and for his conduct to and delivery at any penitentiary or house of correction in that province, and his detention therein, according to the terms on which his sentence might have been commuted. And (c) that the time during which any offender should have continued in any common gaol, under sentence of transportation, or under sentence of confinement in the penitentiary, should be reckoned in

(a) Statute of *Upper Canada*, 7 W. 4. c. 6. s. 2.

(b) Sect. 3.

(c) Sect. 4.

discharge,

discharge, or part discharge, of the term which should be appointed by such sentence.

"And I do further certify that by another statute of her Majesty's said province of *Upper Canada* (a), intituled, 'An act respecting the transportation of convicts,' made and passed" 7 W. 4., "in the manner and by the persons and authority required for that purpose by the said act" 31 G. 3. (c. 31.), "after reciting that (b) it was expedient to facilitate the transportation of offenders to such place or places in his Majesty's dominions as might be assigned for the reception of convicts, and to make further provision in respect to the punishment of transportation: it was enacted, that notwithstanding any thing contained in a certain act of the parliament of that province, passed in the fortieth year of the reign of his late Majesty King *George* the Third, entitled, 'An act for the further introduction of the criminal law of *England* in this province, and for the more effectual punishment of certain offenders,' it should be lawful, after the passing of that act, to sentence offenders to transportation, not only in such cases where by any law then in force, or thereafter to be passed, it was expressly provided that such offenders might be transported, but also in every case in which by the provisions of the said act passed in the fortieth year of the reign of his late Majesty King *George* the Third, the person convicted would be liable to be banished from that province: provided always, nevertheless, that no offender should, under the authority of that act, be sentenced to be transported, except by such court, and in such cases, and for such term of time, as the same offender might, according to the said act, be banished from that province; and that nothing in that act contained should extend or be construed to take away or affect the power of sentencing offenders to be banished according to the act therein before recited, when it should appear proper to pass such sentence. And (c) that all and singular the provisions then in force which were contained in the said act of the parliament of that province, passed in the fortieth year of the reign of his late Majesty King *George* the Third, respecting persons returning to that province before the expiration of the period for which they had been banished by sentence of a court, or had consented to be banished according to the terms of any conditional pardon granted to a convict sentenced to suffer death, should equally extend to and be in force with respect to any person returning from transportation after that act, whether such person should have been sentenced to be transported, or having been capitally convicted, should have been pardoned on condition of being transported. And (d) that the sentence in case of transportation should be, that the offender should be transported for a time to be mentioned in such sentence, or for life, where that might be lawful, and should in the opinion of the court

1839.

LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

(a) Statute of *Upper Canada*, 7 W. 4. c. 7.

(b) Sect. 1.

(c) Sect. 2.

(d) Sect. 3.

1839.

LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

passing such sentence appear proper, to such place as the governor, lieutenant-governor, or person administering the government of that province, by and with the advice of the executive council thereof, should appoint. And (a) that it should and might be lawful for the governor, lieutenant-governor, or person administering the government of that province, by and with the advice of the executive council thereof, to determine, upon reference to his Majesty's government in *England*, to what foreign possession of his Majesty convicts should be transported from that province, under the provisions of that act. And (b) that an instrument under the sign manual of the governor, lieutenant-governor, or person administering the government of that province, and directed to the Judges of the Court of King's Bench, declaring to what colony or place it had been determined to transport any convict, should be sufficient authority for the Judge who passed sentence on such convict, or in his absence, for any other Judge of the said court, to make his warrant, authorising any person or persons to carry and secure such convict in and through that province, towards the sea-port or place from whence he or she was to be transported; and if any person or persons should rescue such convicts, or any of them, or assist them, or any of them, in making their escape from such person or persons as should have them in their custody as aforesaid, such offence should be punishable in the same manner as if such convict had, at the time it was committed, been confined in a gaol or prison in the custody of the sheriff or gaoler after sentence for the crime of which he should have been convicted. And (c) that the time during which any offender should have continued in gaol under sentence of transportation should be taken and reckoned in part discharge or satisfaction of the term of his transportation. And (d) that the expenses of carrying that act into execution, so far as respected the removal of convicts in order to their being transported, should be annually laid before both houses of the legislature. And (e) that if by reason of any difficulty occurring, which might prevent the transportation or reception of any convict in any colony or possession of his Majesty, the sentence which should have been passed on any such convict could not be carried into effect, such convict might be detained in prison for a period not longer than that for which he should have been sentenced to be transported, unless it should appear expedient to pardon such convict, in which case it might be made a condition of such pardon, that the convict should banish himself from that province, for a period not exceeding the residue of the time for which he was to have been transported" (g).

(a) Statute of *Upper Canada*, 7 W. 4. c. 7. s. 4.

(b) Sect. 5. (c) Sect. 6. (d) Sect. 7. (e) Sect. 8.

(g) By mistake, in the amended return, at the end, see *antè*, p. 736., it was stated, "that *Leonard Watson*" (instead of "*Digby B. Morton*") "did, on the day and year last aforesaid, deliver the said *Leonard Watson*" &c.

On

On *Wednesday*, 16th *January*, the return in the case of *Randall Wixon*, another of the prisoners (see p. 732. *antè*), was read. It corresponded with the amended return in *Watson's* case, except that the condition of pardon was, that *Wixon* should be transported to *Van Diemen's Land*, "for and during the term of fourteen years next ensuing the date of his arrival" there.

1839.

 LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

The Counsel for the prisoners then moved that *Wixon* should be discharged. Reliance has been placed on the recital in sect. 17 of stat. 5 G. 4. c. 84., as recognising the existence of a power in the provincial legislature to transport, and to send to *England* in the course of transportation. But statutory recitals are often untrue; an instance of which is to be found in stat. 59 G. 3. c. 31. s. 1. (a). The recital here is contrary to the fact, no such power existing by statute, which alone could give it; and it applies only to "some parts" of the King's dominions beyond sea. But the objection, that the legislature of *Upper Canada* cannot, at any rate, authorise transportation and detention beyond the bounds of the province, has not been answered. Sect. 3 of stat. 5 G. 4. c. 84. has been cited, to illustrate the power of a legislature, generally, to deport beyond the limits of its own territory: but that section uses the words "transportation or banishment." The former applies to the case of prisoners being sent to places within the dominions of the legislating country: the latter to the case of their being sent to places without such dominions. In the latter case, the power of the legislature ceases, either at once upon the prisoner being without the territory of the legislating country, or, at latest, upon his arriving

(a) See *In re Baron de Bode*, 6 Dowl. P. C. 782, 785, 788, 9.

within

1839.

LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

within the territory of another country. In *Lower Canada* an ordinance was made authorising the detention in *Bermuda* of persons sent thither from *Lower Canada*: but the illegality of that order appears from the act of indemnity, stat. 1 & 2 *Vict. c. 112.*, which was thereupon passed in the parliament of the United Kingdom. The power of the Crown to commute punishment in cases of high treason, as in other instances, appears to have been assumed for many years: but no authority can be shewn for its being enforced, independently of statute, by any other means than that of avoiding the pardon, and enforcing the original judgment, in case of noncompliance with the condition. This may be inferred, in cases of felony, from *Copeland's Case (a)*. The service in the colonies was not merely in the nature of punishment, but also in that of labour for hire and reward. Sect. 13 of stat. 31 *C. 2. c. 2.* refers to such service only under contract. Sect. 14, which was also cited on the other side, refers only to transportation under a commutation of punishment imposed by the Court upon conviction. The remedy of habeas corpus is not allowed by the statute in either case: but there is no power given to the Crown to enforce the agreement or condition, except by the avoidance of the pardon.

The doubt suggested, whether this country will not, as a matter of general law, aid in carrying into effect, in its own territory, the penal sentences of foreign countries, really raises the whole question which is practically before the Court. But such a doubt is unwarranted. No authority can be given for it; and such a principle is negatived by the language of Lord *Loughborough* in *Folliott v. Ogden (b)*, the decision in which case was affirmed on error;

(a) *Kelyng, Rep. Pl. Cr. 45.*

(b) 1 *H. Bl. 123, 135.*

Ogden v. Folliot (a); and also by 3 *Inst.* 180. When, indeed, the legislature enables the executive to deport aliens, such aliens are legally removable; but then they are so, not under any foreign law to which they may have become amenable, but under the special provisions of the domestic legislature. *Rex v. Suddis* (b) is inapplicable to this part of the argument; for it was assumed throughout that case that the *English* laws extended to *Gibraltar*. In the case of *Upper Canada*, by stat. 31 G, 3. c. 31. s. 2., the laws of the provincial legislature are valid and binding only "within the province in which the same shall have been so passed."

The provincial statute, 1 *Vict. c.* 10., gives no power of affixing to a pardon the condition of punishments previously illegal, or of enforcing such condition. But here is a condition of transportation to be measured from the time of the party's arrival in the penal colony, which is uncertain, and dependent upon the arrangements made by the executive of *Upper Canada*. Further, sect. 2 of the same statute shews that the only method contemplated of enforcing the condition of transportation was the punishment of the party as a felon, in case of his returning to the colony without lawful excuse. The clause does not in terms make the pardon void. Nor is it a necessary consequence of the condition failing that the pardon should be void: for, if an illegal condition were imposed, the Court would treat the condition as void, and the pardon as single and unconditional.

From the earlier provincial statutes now set out in the return, it appears that the provincial legislature have

1839.

 LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.
(a) 3 *T. R.* 726. See pp. 731, 733.(b) 1 *East*, 306.

1839.

LEONARD
WATSON'S
CASE.

not understood themselves to possess the power of transportation, said to be recognised as previously existing by stat. 5 G. 4. c. 84.; but consider it as given by the enacting part of that statute. For, the power having previously extended only to banishment (*a*), the provincial statutes 7 W. 4. cc. 6, 7., proceeding on the authority of stat. 5 G. 4. c. 84., create the punishment of transportation, the statute having removed, as was supposed, the difficulty arising from *Upper Canada* being an inland province, and from the general want of power *extra fines*. [Coleridge J. Stat. 5 G. 4. c. 84., so far as its enactments go, only authorises confinement in *England*.] The power to carry through *Lower Canada* might perhaps follow *ex necessitate*. [Coleridge J. On that principle, the power to transport to parts beyond the seas would authorise the carrying through *Lower Canada*, independently of stat. 5 G. 4. c. 84.] These suggestions would tend to shew that, even since the act, the power of transportation does not exist. Further, by the provincial statute, 7 W. 4. c. 6. s. 3., the governor has no power to commute the punishment in the case of high treason. It is true that this appears to be qualified by the provincial act, stat. 1 Vict. c. 10.: but the authority of the governor to assent to that is not shewn. His authority is limited by his instructions; stat. 31 G. 3. c. 31. s. 30.: but the instructions are not set out on the return. This also meets the arguments which proceed on the assumption that the legislature of *Upper Canada* is a supreme legislature.

(*a*) It was stated, in argument, that the provincial legislature, having found that sentence of transportation could not be carried into effect for want of power beyond the limits of the province, had substituted (before stat. 5 G. 4. c. 84. passed) banishment for transportation.

Then,

Then, supposing the power to exist, the return does not shew that it has been lawfully exercised. The necessity of a warrant from the governor of *Upper Canada*, for carrying into effect a sentence of transportation, appears from the provincial statute, 7 *W. 4. c. 7. s. 5*. The prisoner was conveyed by the warrant of the governor of *Upper Canada* only "unto" (a) *Lower Canada*. The authority, according to the return, is then exhausted. Nothing is shewn to authorise the warrant of the governor of *Lower Canada*, nor the act of the sheriff of *Quebec*, nor that of the commander of the *Captain Ross*. The allegation of the Queen's determination respecting the fitness of the confinement at *Liverpool* is unmeaning. From the time of the arrival of the prisoner in *Lower Canada*, the parties employed in the transaction are not shewn to have any power which any other individuals would not have had. There is not even an averment of necessity, except by the gaoler of *Liverpool*. It cannot be argued that irregularities in the bringing to *England* are cured upon the actual arrival here: *England*, for this purpose, is not distinguishable from *Nova Scotia*; and, had any individual taken the prisoner thither, and coerced his person there, he would have been justified in using violence to recover his liberty.

As to the form of the return. It is said that the Court will not expect technical nicety. But they must, at least, see that there has been something to warrant the confinement, and will not leave the whole to the judgment of the party making the return; *Bushel's Case* (b); where the return was held bad for

(a) The word appears, in *Watson's case*, to be "unto" in the original return, and "into" in the amended one; but "unto" in both the original and amended returns in *Wixon's case*.

(b) 2 (T.) *Jones*, 13. *S. C. Vaugh.* 135. 6 *How. St. Tr.* 999.

stating

1839.

LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

1839.

LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

stating that the prisoner, being a juryman, had given his verdict "contra plenam evidentiâ et directionem curiæ in materiâ legis." *Rex v. Suddis* (a) is relied upon on the other side. But, first and principally, the prisoner there was a soldier, and therefore not entitled to his liberty in the full sense of the word. Secondly, the return was more special than here. Thirdly, the absence of a warrant was not insisted on. Fourthly, the Court there clearly assumed that the record shewed a trial and conviction by a court of competent jurisdiction. It is argued that *Rex v. Clerk* (b) does not apply where there is a commitment in court to a proper officer. But here no such commitment appears, nor any act of the Court, nor that of any party acting as officer of any court. In the case, *In the Matter of Power* (c), Lord Eldon directed a return to be amended, because it did not set out the whole warrant of commitment. Lastly, the Court cannot take the return as true for all the facts which it alleges, unless the prisoner have some opportunity of traversing it. His remedy by action is, in such a case as this, altogether nugatory. Sir *Michael Foster* (d) expresses his opinion that, though a return to a habeas corpus is in general conclusive as to the fact, there may be exceptions, as in the case of a party about to be sent out of the country. In civil cases, which are much less important, the return is traversable under the express provisions of stat. 56 G. 3. c. 100. sects. 3, 4.

The Counsel for the Crown, contra. The power of transportation, nearly as it now exists in *England*, since

(a) 1 East, 306.

(b) 1 Salk. 349.

(c) 2 Russ. 583.

(d) See his letters to Solicitor-General *Yorke* and Chief-Baron *Parker*, in *Dodson's Life of Foster*, pp. 51, 57; cited 20 How. St. Tr. p. 1375, 1378. (*Addenda*).

the

the separation of the *United States*, was given by stat. 24 G. 3. c. 56. Before that act, transportation to the *American* plantations was the only punishment of the kind which could be legally inflicted. Then the colony of *Upper Canada* adopted the regulation of the *English* law. The power to commute in case of high treason seems to have been taken for granted in *England*, as comprehended in the larger power of punishment, and as a consequence of the prerogative of the Crown. The provincial statutes, 7 W. 4. cc. 6, 7., shew, what was suggested in the former argument, that the provincial legislature has the power of transportation, and that the punishment is one recognised in *Canada*. Sect. 3 of the provincial stat. 7 W. 4. c. 6. is referred to, as shewing that the governor cannot commute the sentence in cases of high treason: but the effect of the provision is, that he can do so with the assent of the Crown. But any limitation which existed is removed by the provincial act, stat. 1 Vict. c. 10., in the case of a party petitioning. The second section recognises distinctly the conditions of both transportation and banishment. It is said that the return does not shew that the instructions to the governor enabled him to assent to this act: but the return alleges that the statute was duly passed and assented to in her Majesty's name. The language of the provincial stat. 7 W. 4. c. 7. s. 1. shews that, before that act, transportation as well as banishment was a recognised punishment.

It is contended that, by sect. 5 of the same act, the governor's warrant is necessary for carrying into effect a sentence of transportation. But that applies only to cases of conviction.

It does not appear from the return that the legislative council

1839.

 LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

1839.

LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

council of *Van Diemen's Land*, acting under stat. 9 G. 4. c. 83. s. 20, &c., may not have authorised the reception of convicts there. That would satisfy the requisite of concurrent legislative provisions by the country transporting and the country receiving. But it is unnecessary. There is, at any rate, power to transport to *Van Diemen's Land*, whatever is to be done when the prisoner arrives there: and this court will not interfere during the transit.

It is argued that the provincial statute, 1 *Vict. c. 10.*, stands upon the same footing with the ordinance respecting *Lower Canada*, the illegality of which is inferred from the indemnifying statute, 1 & 2 *Vict. c. 112.* Now that ordinance was the act, not of the legislative body, but of the special council appointed under stat. 1 & 2 *Vict. c. 9.*: and the whole question was, not whether the legislative body could pass such a law, but whether the particular provisions of that act authorised such a law. The ordinance too was, in itself, made against particular persons, and had no analogy to the general provisions of a statute. It was also doubted whether sect. 6 of stat. 1 & 2 *Vict. c. 9.* did not prevent any ordinance from having the effect of changing in any way the existing law: no such doubt could exist as to the power of the legislature of *Upper Canada*.

It is objected that, at any rate, the condition imposed upon *Wixon* is illegal, the term of transportation commencing at the time of his arrival in the penal colony. It may be that such a sentence is unusual. But, if transportation for life be not an illegal condition, transportation for any time short of life cannot be so. The condition might have been transportation for life,
with

with a proviso that the condition should cease if the party were alive fourteen years after his arrival in the penal colony.

It is also said that an irregularity would not be cured by the party being now in proper custody. But suppose a man sentenced for any crime, and apprehended illegally; the Court would not, when he was in the course of legally suffering his punishment, discharge him on account of the previous irregularity. There is, however, no irregularity in the mode in which the condition here has been enforced. The Court cannot treat the gaoler of *Liverpool* otherwise than as acting under the original authority, if competent, by which the prisoner was ordered to be transported. This appears from the judgments of *Lawrence* and *Le Blanc Js.* in *Rex v. Suddis (a)*. The return might have simply stated the original authority, passing over the subsequent matter.

It is contended that the return is bad for not shewing a warrant, either if one exist, or if there ought to be one, on the authority of *Rex v. Clerk (b)*. But no warrant was necessary for carrying into effect a condition accepted by the prisoner. There appears to have been no warrant in *Rex v. Suddis (a)*. In the *Matter of Power (c)* was a case of a commitment by commissioners of bankruptcy; and the Lord Chancellor, in consequence of the peculiar relation which that office then bore to himself, might well choose to look into the conduct of the commissioners, and not stop at the return (d). But it would be a good return to a habeas corpus, that the party making the return was a constable, and apprehended the prisoner, who was a convict sentenced to

1839.

 LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

(a) 1 East, 306.

(b) 1 Salk. 349.

(c) 2 Russ. 583.

(d) See *Crowley's Case*, 2 Swanst. 75.

1839.

LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

transportation, attempting to escape, without any allegation of a warrant. Even if a private person so returned, the Court would not discharge the prisoner. Who was to grant a warrant here? The authority of the governor of *Lower Canada* to further the carrying of the condition into effect arises from the general power, inherent in every branch of the executive in the United Kingdom, to aid in the execution of the law. *Rex v. Suddis* (a) was a much less strong case than this. It did not, as was suggested, turn upon the military character of the party complaining; and the return there does not even aver the necessity of his being sent from *Gibraltar* to *London*. *Folliott v. Ogden* (b) and the other authorities, cited to shew that this country cannot carry into effect the sentences of foreign countries, are inapplicable: the dependencies of *Great Britain* are not, in the sense of this rule, foreign countries. And, even as to foreign countries, the law is not absolutely clear, as appears from the judgment of *Heath J.* in *Mure v. Kaye* (c).

Hill, in reply. The case of the ordinance which gave rise to the Indemnity Act, stat. 1 & 2 *Vict. c. 112*., has not been distinguished from the present: for, though the authority there was special, the provision was, by stat. 1 & 2 *Vict. c. 9. s. 3.*, that it should be lawful for the governor and council "to make such laws or ordinances for the peace, welfare, and good government of the said province of *Lower Canada* as the legislature of *Lower Canada* as now constituted is empowered to make; and that all laws or ordinances so made, subject to the provisions hereinafter contained for disallowance

(a) 1 *East*, 306.(b) 1 *El. Bl.* 123.(c) 4 *Taunt.* 43.

thereof

thereof by her Majesty, shall have the like force and effect as laws passed before the passing of this act by the legislative council and assembly of the said province of *Lower Canada*, and assented to by her Majesty, or in her Majesty's name by the governor of the said province." This, therefore, puts the ordinance on a footing with laws passed by the legislature of *Lower Canada*, which legislature has the same power as that of *Upper Canada*. Therefore, if the ordinance could not give power to transport *extra fines*, neither could the provincial statute, 1 *Vict. c. 10*.

It is suggested that the power of the Crown to commute punishment in cases of high treason arises from the prerogative. It is clear, however, from *Cope-land's Case (a)*, that there was no such power without the consent of the criminal; and that the only means of enforcing the condition was the infliction of the original punishment in case the criminal violated the condition. In 1 *Chitty's Criminal Law*, 789 (2d ed.), it is said, "Transportation, or exile, is generally regarded as the next to death in the scale of punishment." "It was altogether unknown as a penalty to the common law of *England*. The only case in which it arose, seems to have been that of abjuration, where the party accused fled to a sanctuary, confessed his crime, and took an oath to leave the kingdom at the port assigned him, and never to return without the permission of his Majesty. This was evidently not a punishment, but a condition of pardon; for it was expressly provided by *Magna Charta*, that no freeman shall be banished, unless by the judgment of his peers, or by the law of

1839.

 LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.
(a) *Kelyng, Rep. Pl. Cr. 45.*

1839.

LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

the land." "Very soon after the restoration of *Charles the Second*, it became usual for the Crown to grant pardons, on condition that the offender should be banished, either for life, or for some limited period, and that the original sentence should be revived on his breaking the stipulations of its remission." Now, in default of its appearing, by this return, with what powers the Crown had intrusted the governor, the Court cannot assume (what, indeed, would be contrary to the ordinary practice) that the power of pardoning in cases of high treason has been delegated by the Crown to the governor.

As to the necessity for a warrant. It is assumed, as the result of *Rex v. Clerk (a)*, that a warrant must be set out only where a warrant is issued; and here, it is said, no one could issue a warrant. If no one could do so, as indeed is urged on behalf of the prisoner, that can only be because the proceeding is illegal, and could not become legal by any warrant. *Rex v. Clerk (a)* shows that the only case in which a warrant is unnecessary is where a Court orders the officer to act. That could not be here; for no court has acted at all. In *Rex v. Suddis (b)*, whether there was a warrant or not, it was assumed that there had been a regular judgment of a competent court. And this is all that *Barne's Case (c)* shews. Besides, the return sets out a warrant of the governor of *Upper Canada*, which, if the power existed at all, would authorise conveying the prisoner to *Lower Canada*, but no farther. It cannot be held that any individual, after the prisoner arrived in *Lower Canada*, might take him, and carry him whithersoever

(a) 1 *Salk.* 349.(b) 1 *East*, 306.(c) 2 *Roll. R.* 157.

such

such party chose, in the assumed execution of the condition, continuing or abandoning the custody at will, and so on, through any number of individuals.

1839.

 LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

Cur. adv. vult (a).

LORD DENMAN C. J. in the same term (*January 21st*) delivered the judgment of the Court.

We are now to pronounce our judgment on the validity of a return to a writ of habeas corpus for bringing up the body of *Randall Wixon*, being in the custody of the keeper of her Majesty's gaol at *Liverpool*. The writ was issued by my brother *Littledale*, returnable forthwith before himself at his chambers in *Serjeants' Inn*; but the term was so near at hand that it was thought expedient to hear the argument in the full Court.

Every point that could arise upon the facts that appear has been amply discussed: and, as some doubt was expressed on the right of my learned brother to issue this writ, we desire to state our deliberate opinion, that he has done no more than the law justifies and requires. We deserve herein neither the praise nor the

(a) *The Counsel for the prisoners* declined arguing as to the other returns, on the ground that none of them contained objections which did not exist in the cases of *Watson* and *Wixon*. By the returns it appeared that *Watson*, *Walker*, *Parker*, *Wixon*, *Brown*, *Alves*, *Anderson*, *Malcolm*, and *Bedford*, had all been indicted for high treason, and, before arraignment, had petitioned and confessed, and been pardoned on condition of transportation; *Watson*, *Walker*, *Parker*, and *Bedford*, for the term of their natural lives; *Wixon*, *Brown*, *Alves*, and *Malcolm*, for fourteen years from their arrival in *Van Diemen's Land*; *Anderson* for seven years from his arrival in *Van Diemen's Land*. And that *Grant*, *Miller*, and *Reynolds* had been capitally convicted and sentenced to death; *Grant* for high treason, and *Miller* and *Reynolds* for felony (not specifying the treason or felony); and that these three had been pardoned on condition of transportation to *Van Diemen's Land* for life.

1899.

LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

censure that may belong to innovation. We are merely abiding by an established practice.

Lord *Coke* (a), indeed, and Lord *Hale* (b), and Lord Chief Baron *Comyns* (c), as text writers upon this subject, appear to confine to Chancery, which is at all times open, the officina justitiæ, the power of issuing a habeas corpus in time of vacation. But *Tremaine's Pleas of the Crown* contain four precedents of writs in the exact form of that now before us, earlier than 31 C. 2., one (d) as early as 43 *Eliz. Wilmot*, in his answer to the House of Lords (e), refers to others anterior to the Habeas Corpus Act, and observes that the great men who framed it would never have left so obvious a defect without remedy. In 1758, he and the Judges consulted by the House of Lords affirmed this power; and the reforming bill which had been introduced would scarcely have been suffered to fall, had it not been in that respect deemed unnecessary.

In 1765, then, *Blackstone's* statement (g) is a valuable testimony of the general opinion at that time: and the practice from that period has been uniform. It is also true that, in deciding *Crowley's Case* (h), Lord *Eldon* doubted the power of a Judge in vacation to issue a habeas corpus, saying, there is much good principle for it, but very little practice. That doubt assisted his argument in favour of over-ruling the solemn decision of Lord *Nottingham* in *Jenkes's Case* (i); but the passages

(a) 4 *Inst.* 81.

(b) 2 *Pl. Cr.* 147.

(c) *Tit. Habeas Corpus, (A).*

(d) *Rea v. Gardner, Trem. Pl. Cr.* 354. See post. p. 788. note (d).
For other instances see *Trem. Pl. Cr.* pp. 366, 387, 405.

(e) See *Opinions, &c.* by Sir J. E. *Wilmot*, pp. 94 to 102, &c.

(g) 3 *Com.* 131.

(h) 2 *Swanst.* 1.

(i) 6 *How. St. Tr.* 1189; and in *Crowley's Case*, 2 *Swanst.* 19, 88.

in his judgment, which occur at page 65 and page 68 (a), distinctly prove that he formed his opinion partly on the inconvenience and oppression which might have accrued to the subject if deprived of the means of obtaining a release from imprisonment in time of vacation by a writ sued out in the Court of Chancery. Now the same ill consequences would follow in criminal cases, notwithstanding the power of issuing these writs in vacation by Chancery, unless the Judges of the Court of King's Bench have power to decide immediately on the right to restrain a subject of his personal freedom. In favour of this practice we have the authority of Lord *Nottingham* himself; who, in his judgment, preserved by Mr. *Swanston*, mentions that precedents of such writs being issued by *Kelyng* C. J. were brought before him. He says, indeed, that *Rainsford*, then C. J., had refused a habeas corpus to *Jenkes*; but not because he doubted his power to do so. It is far more likely he did not choose to enter into a controversy with the Privy Council by whom *Jenkes* had been committed (b).

In fact, therefore, there is no decision against this doctrine; and in its favour great authority, principle, necessity, and very early precedents, continued to the present hour.

We proceed, then, to examine this return, which, in substance, is that, after the insurrection in *Upper Canada* was suppressed last year, the legislature authorized a pardon to be granted by the Governor to such persons charged with high treason as should before arraignment confess their guilt, and petition for a pardon, on such conditions as should seem fit; that *Wixon* was so charged,

1839.

 LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.
(a) 2 *Swanst.*(b) See *Crowley's Case*, 2 *Swanst.*, 46, 83.

1839.

 LEONARD
 WATSON'S
 Case.

and so pardoned, on condition of being transported to *Van Diemen's Land* for his life (a); that, for want of the means to convey him thither directly, he was first taken to *Quebec* in *Lower Canada*, then embarked to *England*, and there kept in safe custody in *Liverpool* gaol, being a secure and convenient place for the purpose of detaining him, while necessary preparations were made for transporting him in fulfilment of the condition of his pardon.

Some general observations are material to be made. The return must necessarily be received as true in all the particulars that appear upon it in the present stage, in which its sufficiency alone is examined. We are sitting as on a demurrer, or a writ of error on the judgment of another court.

We must also bear in mind that the matter for our consideration is, not the code by which the law of this country may *require* its ministers to proceed in certain cases, but whether, under the circumstances of this prisoner, he can justly complain that he is injured and has a right to be set free. Obviously there is a broad distinction between the duties which a state may enjoin on persons in authority for purposes of its own, and the powers of which it may permit the exercise for any lawful purpose.

The difficult questions that may arise touching the enforcement in *England* of foreign laws, are excluded from this case entirely; for *Upper Canada* is neither a foreign state, nor a colony with any peculiar customs. Here are no *mala prohibita* by virtue of arbitrary enactments; the relation of master and slave is not recognized

(a) This was the condition in *Watson's* case.

as legal: but acts of parliament have declared that the law of *England*, and none other, shall there prevail. The consequence is that we can take judicial notice of their legal proceedings, can understand the language they employ, and must, according to all former practice, make every reasonable intendment in support of their validity.

The legislative act, under which the pardon was granted, was, however, said to be absolutely void for two inherent vices.

First, that, by the law of *England*, no man can contract for his own imprisonment. This dictum of *Hobart C. J. (a)*, founded on older authorities, and on principle, was cited by Mr. *Hargrave* in his celebrated argument in *The Case of James Sommersett (b)*. It made out his point that, even if the negro had sold his freedom, our law would hold the bargain void; but it really has no application to the case of a man charged with a crime, but permitted by the law to confess it before arraignment, and so enabled to obtain a pardon, by which his life is spared, but he binds himself to undergo a less severe punishment.

The second objection was to the enactment that persons may be pardoned *on such conditions as may seem fit*, as if it introduced a power of punishing in a manner unheard of in our procedure, and would legalize even torture and mutilation. But we are of opinion that these barbarous practices are impliedly excluded from the enactment, unless it should actually express them. There is no doubt that transportation was in-

1839.

 LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

(a) In *Foster v. Jackson*, *Hob.* 61 (5th ed.), citing *Clark's Case*, 5 Rep. 64 a.

(b) 20 *How. St. Tr.* 50.

tended;

1889.

 LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

tended; for that mode of punishment is mentioned in the second section of the same act. It appears from former acts passed in *Canada* to have been in force there; and stat. 5 G. 4. c. 84. s. 17. proves the frequency of transporting to the penal settlements for offences committed in certain colonies belonging to Her Majesty; while it is notorious that the substitution of that punishment for the loss of life has been constantly, during a long course of years, an acknowledged practice in this country.

Another objection drawn from a different provision of the act, that the pardon was made equivalent to an attainder in respect to property, and therefore could not affect the person, was not much pressed; as this proceeding is in no degree connected with the principles of attainder.

Objections were raised to the condition of the pardon, both in respect to the time and the place of transportation. The time is fourteen years, to be reckoned from *the arrival of the party in Van Diemen's Land*, thus depending on accident, or perhaps postponed by wilful delay, and void for the uncertainty. The answer given at the bar appears to us satisfactory; that, as the transportation may be for time of life, it may *à fortiori* be for *any* shorter period.

It was then said that the power to receive the convict at *Van Diemen's Land*, the place of his destination, ought to appear in the letters patent granting the pardon. We do not think it necessary. Her Majesty has power by law to make that settlement a receptacle for persons transported under sentence, or after a commutation of their punishment; and we can have no difficulty in presuming

suming that all due preparations and provisions for that purpose have been made.

1839.

LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

The return was challenged for the want of every one of the numerous documents whence the right to imprison was inferred. The indictment for treason, it was contended, ought to have been recited, if not set forth in terms: the petition, the confession, the pardon, the assent, though that indeed is not required by the act. We were told that it was our duty to inspect these papers, and not receive a merely general description from the party imprisoning, that we might judge for ourselves whether the description was correct, and whether they really conferred the authority ascribed to them. To this manifold objection one answer must serve. The fact is stated to the Court upon the return: and we are bound to receive it as true. The party who makes the return has probably never seen the documents, but, at his peril, places his confidence in the captain who brought the prisoners from *Canada*, or in some other person: but he is bound by the assertion which he makes on their credit; and their truth may be questioned in any ulterior proceeding which it may be competent to the party to adopt.

The last head of objection is that the authority to transmit the prisoner to the various custodies in which he has successively been placed does not properly appear. The treason was committed in *Upper Canada*; and there confession was made, and the conditional pardon granted.

How, then, it is asked, could the Governor of *Lower Canada* be justified in receiving him, and in transmitting him to *England*, and how can the gaoler of *Liverpool* restrain his person in this country? The more especially,

1839.

LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

cially, as Sir *John Colborne's* letters patent are directed in terms to *such person in England as may be lawfully authorized to receive him* ; and no warrant is even pretended to have been directed to the gaoler of *Liverpool*, nor does he even allege himself to be a person answering that designation.

We answer that, as soon as the conditional pardon had been granted on the prisoner's petition, the Crown had a right to enforce the condition, and to take all necessary steps for that purpose. The circumstances confer the authority ; and no warrant could enlarge it.

Sir *John Colborne*, whose letters patent are addressed to persons having authority to receive, had in himself no more authority to receive than the person who now detains the prisoner. As it is physically impossible to embark at once for *Van Diemen's Land* from *Upper Canada*, in every intermediate territory where the prisoner was confined in the necessary performance of the condition to which he had lawfully bound himself he was lawfully confined. And stat. 5 G. 4. c. 84., in the section before quoted, shews that transports from the colony on commuted sentences had been habitually received in *England* in their passage to the penal settlements.

The result is that the person making this return is justified in rendering his assistance to the captain of the vessel which has brought the prisoner from *Lower Canada* in detaining him, and to such other person as may be employed to carry him to *Van Diemen's Land* : and that the prisoner must be remanded to his custody.

We have selected the case open to the most numerous
objections

objections for our first judgment. Eight others (a), namely, *Watson, Walker, Parker, Brown, Alves, Anderson, Malcolm* and *Bedford*, must be disposed of in the same manner, for substantially the same reasons.

1839.

LEONARD
WATSON'S
CASE.

Three, *Grant, Miller*, and *Reynolds*, have not been pardoned under the Legislative Act; but, according to the ordinary practice as stated in the return, after being *duly convicted* at a court of session and oyer and terminer at *Niagara* in *Upper Canada*, one of them of *treason*, the other two of *felony*. We have carefully considered whether these allegations are sufficient; and, on the principles already stated, we think they are. On this point we rely on the principle laid down in *Barne's Case* (a), that returns to the writ of habeas corpus do not require minute correctness if the substance of the facts is stated; and on the precedent acted upon in *Rex v. Suddis* (b), where similar allegations, but still looser, were sanctioned and held good. These then must also be remanded.

Prisoners remanded.

Hill then moved, first, that the gaoler might be directed to verify his return by affidavit, or that, in default of his doing so, the prisoners might be discharged; secondly, for a rule for an attachment against him for a false return.

As to the first point. It is clear that, unless there be some method of contesting the truth of the return besides an action for a false return, the remedy by habeas corpus is illusory. And the case is the stronger, when, as here,

(a) 2 Ro. Rep. 157. See also *Hutchins v. Player*, O. Bridgm. Rep. 287.

(b) 1 East, 306.

1839.

LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

the prisoners will be sent beyond sea if the proceedings of the gaoler be upheld, and when the gaoler cannot by possibility have acted on his own knowledge. The remedy is said to be "complete for removing the injury of unjust and illegal confinement;" 3 *Bl. Com.* 133—138.; whereas, if the return be conclusive, the remedy is not only incomplete but nugatory. In *De Vine's Case* (a), in 34 *H. 6.*, a prisoner pleaded to a return, and the party returning replied to the plea; upon which the prisoner was remanded. It appears that the judges, among whom was *Fortescue* C. J., were the advisers of the Lord Chancellor in this proceeding. In *Sir William Chancey's Case* (b) it appears that the return to a habeas corpus was held bad for a reason (among others) which would appear on looking out of the return; namely, that the High Commission, under which the parties acted, could not be executed by four, which was the number of commissioners making the warrant under which the imprisonment was justified. In *Hutchins v. Player* (c) the Court looked into numerous matters extrinsic to the return, to see whether the custom set out in the return was good. In *Seint John's Case* (d) it

(a) Cited in *Hutchins v. Player*, *O. Bridgm.* 288., from a Register Book of the city of London, called *Liber Dunthorne*. See *O. Bridgm.* p. 305. Also pp. 276, 295, 308.

(b) 12 *Rep.* 82.

(c) *O. Bridgm.* 272. "The Court may remand at their discretion, and inform themselves of the charters, evidences, and other matters *ab extra*." *Ib.* p. 289.

(d) 6 *Rep.* 71 b. It does not appear from *Coke* that there was any habeas corpus in that case; but see *S. C.* as *Gardener's Case*, *Cro. Eliz.* 321. See the record in *Trem. Pl. Cr.* 354., *Rex v. Gardner*: whence it appears that the prisoner *Gardner* appeared in Court on recognizance, cravedoyer of the writ and return, and then "*dicit quod ipse non intendit*," &c., denying the right of the Queen and the informer to the fine, for the non-payment of which he was committed, "*quia dicit quod*" &c., and then

it seems that there was a plea to the return in the nature of a confession and avoidance, alleging, as a new fact, that the prisoner was a sheriff's bailiff; for which cause he was held justified in doing that for which he was fined and had been imprisoned on non-payment. In *Swallow v. The City of London* (a) there seems to have been a discussion whether the prisoner should be allowed the benefit of a fact not pleaded (b); but the Court gave him the benefit of the fact. In *Dodson's Life of Foster*, p. 53. (c) is an account of *Rex v. White*, which was a case of impressment under stat. 18 G. 2. c. 10. The Court there allowed affidavits to be read on each side, though they said it was not usual; for that the prisoner there had no other remedy: and the prisoner was discharged, though the return was good on the face of it. Mr. Justice Foster, as appears by his letters to Solicitor-General Yorke

1839.

LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

then setting out the special matter, and his being charged with the duty (which did not appear before), "et hoc paratus est verificare unde petit iudicium et quod ipse de premissis per curiam hic dimittatur." The Queen's coroner, "viso placito predicti Johannis Gardner et per ipsum bene intellecto pro eo quod satis sibi constat per relationem et testimonium diversorum fidelium subditorum dictæ Domine Regine" that Gardner did the act complained of in his own defence and for the better execution of his warrant, modo et formâ as by him above pleaded, confesses the truth of the plea. Whereupon "consideratum est quod predictus Johannes Gardner de premissis eat inde sine die," &c.

(a) 1 *Sid.* 287.

(b) "Après le ret' file fui move p' luy daver liberty de plead al ret' car cōm' fuit agree que matter contr' le ret' ne poet eū plead nres party est mise al son action pur le faux ret' une' fuit dit que matt' que estoit ove le ret' poet eū plead scil. admittant que le City de London ad tiel custome unc' (coment Freéman la) ne serra lie per ceo, quia il est un des Moniers le Roy," &c. The Court remanded the prisoner, and directed that the privilege should be suggested in the Crown Office, like a suggestion in prohibition on the plea side; and such suggestion was accordingly filed.

(c) See also 20 *How. St. Tr.* 1376. (Addenda).

(Life,

1839.

LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

(*Life*, p. 51.) and Chief Baron *Parker* (p. 57.), considered the rule, that a return was conclusive as to the fact, liable to exceptions, particularly where the party was to be sent beyond sea. In the latter letter, he adverts particularly to the tenth question proposed by the House of Lords to the Judges in 1758 (*a*). The majority of the Judges there held the return not absolutely conclusive; but several of them, among whom was *Wilmot J.* (*b*), limited the power of the Court to look beyond the return to cases where the falsehood of it should appear by verdict or judgment on demurrer in an action for a false return. *Wilmot J.* seems to admit that a prisoner may confess and avoid, though not traverse. But such a distinction seems inadmissible: for a plea to the return must be liable to traverse, and, if so, why not the return itself? In 1758 the reports of Sir *O. Bridgman* had not been published; therefore neither *De Vine's Case* (*c*), nor *Bridgman's* view in *Hutchins v. Player* (*d*) were known. In *Goldswain's Case* (*e*) the Court took into consideration the affidavits on which the habeas corpus was obtained. And *Gould J.* said, "I do not conceive, that either the Court or the party are concluded by the return of a *habeas corpus*, but may plead to it any special matter necessary to regain his liberty." It may be argued that, as stat. 56 G. 3. c. 100. s. 3. enables judges to enquire into the truth of the return in cases of confinement (sect. 1) "otherwise than for some criminal or supposed criminal matter," inquiry is, by implication, excluded, in cases like the present. But,

(a) 4 *Bac. Abr.* 140. (7th ed.) *Habeas Corpus*, (B) 13. (note). 15 *Parl. Hist.* 903.

(b) See *Notes of Opinions, &c.* by Lord Chief Justice *Wilmot*, p. 105.

(c) Cited in *Hutchins v. Player*, *O. Bridgm.* 288.

(d) *O. Bridgm.* 272.

(e) 2 *W. Bl.* 1207.

first,

first, as is said by Lord *Eldon* in *Crowley's Case* (a), "if the prerogative of the king cannot be affected by general words in a statute, will a British court of justice permit it to be said, that a statute designed to enforce in particular instances the prerogative in favour of the liberty of the subject shall deprive the subject of that liberty in any case?" Secondly, the words "criminal or supposed criminal matter" must be understood in the same sense as in the preamble to the statute in *pari materiâ*, 31 C. 2: c. 2. Now, by sect. 3 of that act, it appears that these words apply only to cases where parties are detained with a view to trial; for an exception is made of "persons convict or in execution by legal process." The words in the preamble, therefore, clearly mean only persons awaiting trial; and consequently the exception in stat. 56 G. 3. c. 100. must be confined in the same manner. But, further, the Court here may act on its common law powers of remedying an evil in a summary way. Formerly parties were put to plead privilege of parliament, *femes covert* to plead coverture, and the like. But the Court now interferes upon motion to relieve such parties, the facts being before them on affidavit. So, on the other hand, in *Rex v. Marks* (b) the return to a habeas corpus shewed an informal warrant of commitment: but, the depositions returned shewing a *corpus delicti*, the Court discharged and recommitted the prisoner, taking upon themselves to remodel the commitment.

Then, if the truth of the return be disputable, it follows that the party making it is to establish the truth;

1839.

 LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.
(a) 2 *Swanst.* 68.(b) 3 *East*, 157.

1889.

LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

and it cannot lie on the party imprisoned to negative the cause of his detention.

In support of the motion for an attachment, *Hill* produced an affidavit by the clerk of the attorney for the prisoners, stating that he, the clerk, received from the gaoler, on 29th *December* 1838, the following document:—

"Province of } (Seal) J. Colborne.
Lower Canada }

["Victoria, by the grace" &c.

"To *Digby B. Morton*, master of the bark *Captain Ross*. Whereas, under and by virtue of a certain warrant of his Excellency Sir *George Arthur*, K. C. H., Lieutenant-Governor of our province of *Upper Canada*, and Major-General commanding our forces therein, bearing date, under his hand and seal of office, at *Toronto*, in the said province of *Upper Canada*, the 5th day of *November* in the present year of our Lord 1838, in the second year of our reign, *Ira Anderson*," &c. (here followed a list of twenty-one, including all the twelve prisoners except *Miller* and *Reynolds*), "severally indicted and convicted in due course of law, in the courts of the said province of *Upper Canada*, of the crime of high treason, and *Linies* (a) *Willson Miller*," and "*William Reynolds*" (and two others), "in like manner severally indicted and convicted of the crime of felony, and *Edwin Merrit* in like manner indicted and convicted of the crime of murder, to all of which said persons and convicts our gracious pardon hath been extended, upon condition, nevertheless, that they and each of them be transported and remain transported to our penal colony of *Fan Diemen's Land* for and during the period named in the patents of pardon so as aforesaid granted to the said convicts and each of them: And, whereas the said several persons and convicts are (b), by and under a warrant in that behalf of his Excellency Sir *John Colborne*, our administrator of the government of our said province of *Lower Canada* in that behalf, are now in the custody of our sheriff of the district of *Quebec* in our said province of *Lower Canada*, in order to their transportation as aforesaid: And whereas we being willing that the bodies of the said *Ara* (a) *Anderson*," &c. (omitting *Leonard Watson*, and naming all the other twenty-five), "and of each and every of them, now in our common gaol of our district of *Quebec*, should be directly delivered to you to be transported to *Fan Diemen's Land*, being one of our penal settlements and foreign possessions, we have, by our writ in that behalf addressed, lately commanded our said

(a) The names were incorrectly spelt in this and other instances.

(b) Sic.

sheriff that he should deliver the said *Ara Anderson*," &c. (the twenty-five without *Leonard Watson*), "and each and every of them to your custody, without delay to be transported as aforesaid, we therefore command you receive the said *Ara Anderson*," &c. (the twenty-five without *Leonard Watson*), "and each and every of them, from our said sheriff of our said district of *Quebec*, and that you do forthwith transport and convey, or cause to be transported and conveyed, the said *Ara Anderson*," &c. (the twenty-five without *Leonard Watson*), "and each and every of them, to such part of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain* and *Ireland* called *England* as to us may seem fit, to the end that the said *Ara Anderson*," &c. (the twenty-five without *Leonard Watson*), "may be thence again transported to our penal colony of *Van Diemen's Land*, according to the condition in our aforesaid pardons severally and respectively in that behalf contained, and that you do there deliver the bodies of the said *Ara Anderson*, &c. (the twenty-five without *Leonard Watson*), "and the body of each and every of them, into the custody of such person or persons as may be lawfully authorised to receive the same.

"In testimony whereof, we have caused these our letters to be made patent, and the Great Seal of our said province of *Lower Canada* to be hereunto affixed.

"Witness our trusty and well-beloved Sir *John Colborne*, Knight, Grand Cross," &c., "Commander in Chief of our forces in our province of *Lower Canada*," &c.

"At our government house, in our city of *Montreal*, in our said province of *Lower Canada*, the 17th day of *November* in the year of our Lord 1838, and in the second year of her Majesty's reign.

"By command,

"*D. Daly*,

"Sec^y of the Province."

That this document was so delivered to the deponent in consequence of his having demanded to be furnished with a copy of the warrant of commitment under which the twelve prisoners now brought up, then in the gaoler's custody, were detained by him; and that the deponent examined the document with the original warrant of commitment then in the custody of the town clerk of *Liverpool*. That deponent was informed, both by the gaoler and town clerk, that the prisoners were held in custody solely on the authority of the warrant, and that they had no other document or warrant what-

1839,

LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

1839.

LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

soever connected with the prisoners. That, in answer to deponent's request to know what return would be made to the writ, deponent was informed, both by the gaoler and town clerk, that the return would be made by setting out the warrant under which the prisoners were detained. That, at the time of the return in *Watson's* case being read in court (14th *January*), the deponent saw the original returns which had been prepared by or on behalf of the gaoler; and that the return in *Watson's* case simply set out the warrant. That the deponent communicated the receipt of the copy of the warrant to the attorney for the prisoners; and that the instructions to the counsel consisted of a copy of the warrant, among other things.

Lord DENMAN C. J. With regard to the proposition that the return should be supported by affidavits, there appears to be no authority for saying that this has ever been held necessary, or that in practice it has ever been done. We should not be justified in introducing any new practice. Other securities are provided by the law: if they should unfortunately prove insufficient, that would not authorize our establishing a new practice.

As to the motion for an attachment, I think the Court ought to be extremely careful that the facts should be truly stated to them. I do not enter into the question, how far the warrant is material: for I think that no such minute enquiry ought to be made upon such a subject. If we find that an untruth is stated, that is a sufficient *primâ facie* case to induce us to call upon the party making the statement to account for the untruth.

LITLEDALE J. A party imprisoned has two modes of proceeding, either by action for false imprisonment, or by application for a habeas corpus. In an action for false imprisonment the defendant must prove his justification, if any; and (except where allowed by express provision to give it under the general issue) he must also set forth the justification specially on the record. In the return to an habeas corpus no such minuteness of detail is necessary; nor in any instance that I can find has it been considered necessary to support the return by affidavit.

On the other point, I think the gaoler should be called upon to account for the statement which he has made contrary to the fact.

WILLIAMS J. As to the first point, the return to an habeas corpus *primâ facie* imports verity; that appears from the opinion, which has been cited, of Mr. Justice *Foster*, from *Rex v. Clork (a)*, *Rex v. Suddis (b)*, and *Ex parte Krans (c)*.

COLERIDGE J. As to the second part of the application, it is merely necessary to say that this is a rule nisi; and that the Court, abstaining from prejudging the question, requires a public officer, who appears, *primâ facie*, to have made an untrue statement, to shew how it is that he has so dealt with the Court.

On the other point, a great deal was urged by Mr. *Hill*, as to the illusory nature of the remedy by habeas corpus, unless his view be sustainable. To which I will merely answer that the history of England shews that that judge does best for the liberty of the people who

(a) 1 *Salk.* 349.(b) 1 *East*, 306.(c) 1 *B. & C.* 258.

1839.

 LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

1839.

LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

does not indulge in speculations of his own to the extent of straining the law, for the purpose of affording a supposed benefit, but adheres to the law as he finds it, however defective it may be: for, if it be defective, that is sure to lead to an improvement in the regular and constitutional mode. Mr. Hill's position is, not simply that the truth of a return may be controverted either by plea or affidavit, but that, in the first instance, the party filing the return is bound to support it by affidavit. Now not a single authority cited, from the time of *Henry VI.* down to that of Mr. Hargrave, in the slightest degree bears that out in terms. In Sir *William Chancey's Case* (a) the report does not shew that more was decided than that the return was informal on the face of it. And, further, I apprehend that cases of privilege may stand on a different footing from ordinary cases, and that the Court may, ex officio, there institute an enquiry of its own. But the great current of authorities is the other way. Perhaps, indeed, in the earlier cases, the party was at liberty to controvert the facts by plea. At a later period, as Mr. Justice Foster shews, the practice of filing affidavits was in some instances allowed; but he does not go on to say that it was incumbent on the party who filed the return to support it in the first instance by affidavit. Considering what his opinions generally were, I think it must be taken for granted that he had not found any authority to make that position good. Mr. Hill is compelled to urge that the Court is bound in justice to shift the onus from the party controverting the return to the party making it. For this no authority has been cited; and I think the Court cannot go to that extent.

(a) 12 Rep. 82.

Ordered,

Ordered, that *William Batcheldor*, keeper of the borough gaol of *Liverpool*, "shew cause why a writ of attachment should not issue against him, for his contempt in making a false return to a writ of habeas corpus," &c.

1839.

 LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

In answer, affidavits were put in. One was by *S. J. Blunt*, a clerk in the Colonial Office, deposing that, about 18th *December* 1838, a dispatch was received from the Lieutenant-Governor of *Upper Canada*, addressed to Lord *Glenelg*, one of her Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, containing the pardon of *Watson* and others. The pardon, which was annexed to the affidavit, was by letters patent under the Great Seal of *Upper Canada*, and signed and sealed by Sir *George Arthur*, Lieutenant-Governor of the province. It recited the enacting part of the provincial statute 1 *Vict.* c. 10. s. 1. (see *antè*, pp. 733, 734.), and that *Anderson, Brown, Watson, Wixon, Alves, Walker, and Parker* were indicted for certain high treasons (which were specified), and had each petitioned, confessing his guilt, professing penitence, and praying for mercy; and that the Lieutenant-Governor, by advice, &c., had consented on conditions severally specified in the pardon (corresponding with the several returns). Then followed the operative part of the pardon, corresponding with the terms of the recital. *Blunt* also deposed that, about 6th *November* 1838, Lord *Glenelg* received a dispatch from Sir *George Arthur*, dated 12th *October* 1838, stating that some of the traitors concerned in the late rebellion would be forthwith removed to *England*, for the purpose of being transported to *New South Wales* or *Van Diemen's Land*, and would be removed to *Quebec*, from whence the Governor would direct their removal to *England*. That, about 18th *December* 1838, Lord

1839.

LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

Glenelg received another dispatch from Sir *George Arthur*, dated 6th of *November* 1838, transmitting a list of convicts pardoned on condition of transportation, who were to be sent to *Quebec* in order to be conveyed to *England*; in which list was contained the name of *Watson*, along with those of twenty-four of the other persons mentioned in Sir *John Colborne's* warrant of 17th *November* 1838 (a); and that, in the list, *Watson* was described as one of the prisoners transported to *Van Diemen's Land*, under the provincial act, for life. *Blunt* further deposed that he believed *Watson's* name to have been omitted in the mandatory part of the warrant by a clerical mistake only. The gaoler deposed that he received thirty-four persons, including the prisoners, from the commander of the *Captain Ross*, into his custody, by the direction of the mayor and other magistrates of *Liverpool*; that the commander, when he delivered them into his custody, called over their names, and, among them, that of *Leonard Watson*; that no warrant was then delivered to him, but he received Sir *John Colborne's* warrant the same day from the town clerk of *Liverpool*, which warrant he again left for the use of the town clerk in his communications with the government: that he had occasional possession of it afterwards, but it was for the most part in the town clerk's custody for the purpose aforesaid; that he finally received it from the town clerk's office the night before he came to *London* with the prisoners; that he brought the warrant and the writs of habeas corpus with the prisoners to *London* on 9th *January* last, having directions to keep the prisoners in safe custody, and to deliver his papers to the *London* agent of the town clerk, which he accord-

a) The "letters patent" of that date, mentioned in the return.

ingly did ; that on 14th *January* he signed certain returns, which he understood had been prepared by counsel ; and that he did not know, until after they were filed, that *Watson's* name was omitted in any part of the warrant ; that he was aware that the prisoners' attorney had possession of a copy of the warrant ; that he had no intention of stating any thing as being in the warrant which was not there ; and that the return, mentioned in the affidavit in support of the rule, was prepared by the town clerk of *Liverpool*, and was not, to deponent's knowledge or belief, withdrawn, and the other return prepared, with any intention of preventing the Court from knowing the terms of the warrant, or of depriving *Watson* of the advantage of any objections to it. The clerk to the *London* agent of the town clerk deposed that he received from the town clerk those returns that had been prepared, with instructions to shew them to the solicitor to the Treasury, and consent to any alterations which he, or the counsel for the Crown, on behalf of the gaoler, might approve of ; that the returns were laid before the solicitor, and other returns prepared or approved of by the counsel for the Crown, and signed by the gaoler. The solicitor to the Treasury deposed that he instructed the counsel for the Crown to prepare the returns, and that his instructions contained a list of the prisoners, including *Watson*, and a copy of the warrant ; and that he did not, in his instructions, advert to the fact that *Watson's* name was there omitted ; that two returns were prepared, one for each class of cases (one in the case of *Malcolm* and the other in the case of *Grant*), which were used as precedents for the other returns ; that neither he, nor, as he believed, the counsel for the Crown, was aware that *Watson's* case differed

1839.

LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

1885.

 LEONARD
 WATSON'S
 Case.

differed from that of other prisoners, so far as respected the warrant; that there was no intention to state any thing as being in the warrant which was not there; that the counsel for the Crown considered the return originally prepared incorrect, and thought it right that another should be prepared, setting out fully and truly the circumstances under which the prisoners were brought to *England* and detained in the gaoler's custody, and deemed it not only unnecessary but improper that all the documents should be stated at length upon the returns; and that the return which was filed did not omit to set forth the warrant at full length with any view of concealing the omission of *Watson's* name, or depriving him of any benefit that he might derive therefrom. In this term, *Wednesday, January 23d,*

The Counsel for the Crown shewed cause. The affidavits negative any criminal intention in the gaoler, and shew that he did not know of the omission of the name. He was bound to take care that the return was legally drawn. The return as originally framed would have been incorrect in law and fact. The warrant of *Sir John Colborne* was not that under which the gaoler detained the prisoners. After the master of the *Captain Ross* had delivered them over, the warrant had been obeyed, and had expired. But it was, at every step, an immaterial document, so far as the gaoler was concerned. It was not necessary to allude to it at all in the return. The judgment on the motion to discharge the prisoner shews that the parties might have been brought to *England*, and there detained, without any such warrant: and, even if their conveyance to *England* had been irregular, their detention is now legal. *Watson* is therefore not injured by the act complained of. It is

is pressed upon the Court that, if the motion fail, the remedy by habeas corpus is illusory. But any new facts, not inconsistent with the return, might be pleaded; and, if the return itself were shewn by affidavit to be wilfully false, the Court would quash it.

It is now prayed, on the part of the Crown, that the Court will amend the return by striking the warrant out altogether, and making the return conformable to the facts which now appear.

The Counsel for the prisoners, contra. It is unimportant, so far as the present motion is concerned, whether *Watson* have or have not suffered by the untruth. If an unauthorized person were to execute a party convicted of murder, this would be murder. The Court will require every person making a statement to adhere carefully to the fact. The gaoler has at least been guilty of a culpable negligence. Besides, the inaccuracy now appearing to the Court, the *prima facie* presumption as to the truth of the return is met. Further, it is not true that *Watson* has suffered no injury. It was important to him that the Court should see the whole proceeding. The fact now appears to be that one step in the transactions has been a warrant, which, besides that it is legally informal, and also unintelligible (the recital containing no predicate), does not mention *Watson's* name in the operative part. It is argued that this is immaterial, inasmuch as it was not necessary to mention the warrant at all. That, however, was not precisely decided by the Court: and, on the authorities adduced in the former argument, it clearly is a material document. At common law no one could be exiled or banished except in case of abjuration, or by authority of parliament; *Co. Lit.* 133. a. This appears also from

1839.

 LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

Newsome

1839.

LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

Newsome v. Bowyer (a), and 1 *Blackst. Com.* 137. Therefore, in the case of a common law pardon, there are no means of enforcing the condition, but by enforcing the original sentence. In an *Anonymous (b)* case in *Comberbach's Reports* it is said, "A pardon of felony, with a clause of transportation, was allowed, and the party discharged, without finding sureties: but per *Astry*, the usual course is to insert the clause for finding sureties to transport himself within such a time; but, per *Cur'*, he ought to *transport himself* within the time, *at his peril*." Then that is the situation of the prisoners; for there is no statute enforcing transportation, except in the two cases of convicts sentenced to transportation, and pardoned on that condition after conviction. Therefore nothing but a warrant can justify the detainer. "To make imprisonment lawful, it must either be by process from the courts of judicature, or by warrant from some legal officer having authority to commit to prison; which warrant must be in writing, under the hand and seal of the magistrate, and express the causes of the commitment, in order to be examined into (if necessary) upon a *habeas corpus*. If there be no cause expressed, the gaoler is not bound to detain the prisoner." 1 *Blackst. Com.* 137. There was no reason, in the present case, why the prisoner should not have been brought to trial: he might then have pleaded the pardon, and would not have lost the benefit of it, even if he had pleaded Not Guilty; *Jenk. 3 Cent., Ca. 62. (c)*. Then it is argued that at any rate the irregularity is now cured. But for that there is no authority. In *Rich v. Doughy (d)* it was held that where a prisoner, who had

(a) 3 *P. W.* 37.(b) *Comberb.* 16.(c) *P.* 129. ed. 2.(d) 3 *Salk.* 149.

escaped,

escaped, was re-taken by virtue of a legal escape-warrant upon the statute 5 *Ann.*, by a rabble, and not by an officer as the statute directs, the sheriff could not on *habeas corpus* justify the detainer, since the warrant, though good, was illegally executed.

1839.

LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

Sir *John Campbell*, Attorney-General, by permission of the Court, was heard in reply as to the materiality of the warrant. *Rich v. Doughty* (a) is from a book of no authority; and the report is manifestly inaccurate, the case, according to the report, having occurred in 3 *Ann.*, but being decided on stat. 5 *Ann. c. 5. (b)*. Stat. 5 *Ann. c. 5.* is upon another matter: perhaps the statute referred to was 2 stat. 1 *Ann. c. 6.*, which relates to the escape of prisoners in custody upon mesne process or execution in civil cases, or contempt (c). Such prisoners, if illegally retaken, cannot be detained: but this has nothing to do with prisoners under criminal process. The authorities cited shew that, at common law, there is no such punishment as transportation. That, however, does not shew that, when a party receives a pardon on condition of transportation, the transportation cannot be enforced. There were many such pardons in the case of the treasons committed during the rebellion of 1745 (d): no party so pardoned could have been discharged upon *habeas corpus*. But, however that may be, this is the case of a statutory enactment by a legislature recognized in this country. The case stands on the footing of a custody in criminal execution; where, as admitted, no warrant is necessary.

(a) 3 *Salk.* 149.

(b) Sic in marg.

(c) See also stat. 5 *Ann. c. 9. s. 2.*(d) See the *Canadian Prisoners' Case*, 5 *M. & W.* 44., note (i).

Lord

1839.

LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

Lord DENMAN C. J. This attachment is moved for on the ground of the gaoler having committed contempt, in deceiving the Court by a false description of the warrant under which he received the body of *Leonard Watson*. I agree that, if there were any thing like a wilful falsehood committed, it would be a subject for the severest punishment the Court can inflict. There may also be a degree of negligence so culpable, producing a false statement, as to make it proper for us to visit the party with our displeasure. Here there certainly is an incorrectness in point of fact. And, in the first place, I do not say that the party making the return is free from blame in receiving, under what he treated as a warrant, the body of a man whom the warrant did not instruct him to receive. It is the bounden duty of a gaoler to receive no one into custody without satisfying himself that he has authority to do so. Without caution in this respect, the most dreadful consequences might occur in criminal proceedings. I think, therefore, that there is a neglect here which we cannot pass over without some degree of censure. But that is not the contempt which is now complained of. The complaint is, that the gaoler states that *Watson* was named in the warrant, when in fact he was not. It would not affect my view, if it should appear that the warrant is immaterial and that *Watson* has not suffered by the mis-statement. In the first instance, the gaoler evidently did consider it material; and, whether it were so or not, a falsehood would constitute a contempt of the Court. But, upon the affidavits, it is impossible to impute to him the offence of wilful falsehood. Nor is there the slightest ground for imputing an intention to deceive, in any quarter. But, in some quarter or other, there has been

been great neglect in not comparing one document with another, so as to ensure the accuracy of that which was to come before the Court. I cannot feel that this is a matter to be passed over without blame. As to the materiality of the warrant, we gave our deliberate judgment, under a deep sense of our responsibility to the country, that that document was immaterial; and it would not be becoming in us to enter now into any argument or discussion in vindication of our views. As to the question, how far the truth of this return might be canvassed, I neither assent to or dissent from the propositions which have been laid down. I am not prepared to say that, if *Watson* had pledged his oath to the falsity of any statement of fact on the return, we might or might not make that the foundation of a proceeding to quash the return. If we could, there is no foundation for the complaint that the remedy by habeas corpus is illusory. Nor, indeed, in so singular and anomalous a case, could it be inferred, from the absence of precedent, that those who framed or have administered the law on this subject were imposing any thing like a fraud on the country, or that those provisions can therefore be said to be ineffectual, which for so long a time have bestowed upon the liberty of the subject a protection unknown in other countries. With respect to the prayer for an amendment of the return, it follows, from what I have said, that it ought to be granted; not as varying the nature of the case, for I think the return valid without the warrant; but because it is not fit or decent that a false statement should remain on the files of the Court.

1839.

LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

LITLEDALE J. It turns out that the statement made by the gaoler in his return is not true in point of fact.

It

1839.

LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

It lies upon him, then, to shew that the mis-statement is owing to mistake. On the facts, it does not appear that he had any intention of imposing upon the Court. The rule for an attachment should therefore be discharged. As to the other parts of the case, it is sufficient for me, after the judgment already pronounced, to say that I think the warrant not at all material. The prisoners under the *Canadian* Act are properly under sentence of transportation; and it would have been competent for the Governor of *Upper Canada* to give verbal directions to bring them to *England* in order that they might be sent to their destination, without a warrant. The warrant certainly does not seem to be a very business-like document; but it is not material to the question that has been brought before us; namely, whether these prisoners should or should not be remanded. It is quite fit, however, that the amendment should be made, because at present the return contains a statement which is not true.

WILLIAMS J. It may be admitted that the observation which has been made in support of the rule is well founded; namely, that we are not to decide the question by enquiring whether *Watson* has been injured by what has taken place. The question is, whether or not there has been an abuse of the process of the Court, and whether the Court has been treated with contempt. Now it has hardly been seriously urged that there was a wilful attempt to deceive; and it seems to me that this really amounts to a practical abandonment of the application. I think the amendment should be made; and indeed, if the prisoner has suffered from the incorrect statement, I take for granted that his counsel will

will prefer that the correction should be made, so as to give him a better chance of a remedy. I quite agree that we cannot be too vigilant in insisting upon accuracy; but the question is here whether the party has been guilty of wilful disobedience and contempt. I think he has not.

1839.

 LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

COLERIDGE J. I agree on both points. As to the first, I do not think that we have any thing now to do with the conduct of the gaoler in first receiving the prisoners: nor do I think that the materiality of the warrant can determine the question as to the attachment. The present question is, has there been a criminal and fraudulent return, and thereby a contempt of the Court? The warrant might be material, and yet the party innocent in his purpose: it might be immaterial, and yet the party might be guilty of attempting to mislead the Court in what he considered material. Nor, for similar reasons, can the decision turn upon the question whether or not *Watson* has been injured by what has been done. I do not say that the gaoler is wholly free from blame; for by greater diligence he might have avoided the inaccuracy. But the circumstances shew that there is not the slightest ground for believing that he was aware of the incorrectness; and I have therefore no hesitation in saying that the rule ought to be discharged. As to the substitution of the return filed for that originally drawn, it merely comes to this; that the gaoler was ready to assent to any statement, consistent with what he deemed to be true, which would be a sufficient return in law. The amendment, I think, should be made, in order that what is untrue may not remain on the files of the Court. I

1839.

LEONARD
WATSON'S
Case.

cannot see how the prisoner can be prejudiced by that, whether the warrant be material or not. Indeed, if it be material, the amendment rather aids the prisoner. The Court has left it open to *Watson* to state any fact upon affidavit which would shew that the amendment should not be made ; but that has not been done.

Rule discharged.

The following amendment was then made. Instead of the description of the command given to the master of the *Captain Ross* (beginning with the words " by certain letters patent," antè, p. 735., and ending with the words " convenient in that behalf," antè, p. 736.), the following words were inserted : —

" The said *Leonard Watson* was delivered by the said sheriff of *Quebec* into the custody of *Digby B. Morton*, captain of the bark *Captain Ross*, for the purpose of being conveyed to *England* aforesaid." (a)

(a) Some of the prisoners were afterwards brought before the Court of Exchequer by habeas corpus ; and similar returns were filed. That Court remanded the prisoners, on the ground that, even if the conditions of pardon, and the proceedings thereupon, were illegal, the prisoners were liable to be tried for high treason in *England*, on the facts in the return, and ought not therefore to be discharged. *Canadian Prisoners' Case*, 5 M. & W. 32.

END OF HILARY TERM.

C A S E S

ARGUED AND DETERMINED

1839.

IN THE

Court of QUEEN'S BENCH,

AND

UPON WRITS OF ERROR FROM THAT COURT TO THE

EXCHEQUER CHAMBER,

IN

Hilary Vacation,

In the Second Year of the Reign of VICTORIA (a).

The Judges who sat in Banc in this Vacation were,

LORD DENMAN C. J.
LITLEDALE J.

WILLIAMS J.
COLERIDGE J.

The following cases, as far as *Storr v. Lee*, inclusive, are reported by *Edward Smirke*, Esquire.

JOHNSON *against* JONES and Another.

Friday,
February 1st.

REPLEVIN. Avowry for 14*l.*, being the balance of 40*l.* for one year's rent due at *Michaelmas* 1834 in respect of premises held by plaintiff as tenant to defendant *Jones*.

To an avowry for rent the tenant may plead payment of it to a mortgagee, to whom the premises had been mortgaged in fee before the demise to the plaintiff, and who had demanded payment from the plaintiff and threatened "to put the law in force" in case of refusal. Such plea is, in substance, a plea of payment, and not of *nil habuit in tenementis*, nor of eviction: and

(a) Under a Rule of Court made during the last term, as in *Michaelmas* Vacation, 1838. See p. 244, *antè*.

VOL. IX.

3 I

Plea;

1839.

JOHNSON
against
JONES.

and where the plea set out the facts at large, and concluded *et sic riens in arriere*, with a verification, held, that it was not specially demurrable on the ground that it amounted to a plea of *riens in arriere* and should have concluded to the country.

Plea; that before the demise, and before defendant Jones had any thing in the premises, one *Ann Griffith*, being seised in fee of the premises, by lease and release mortgaged them in fee to *J. Clement*, with a proviso for reconveyance on payment of the mortgage money on a specified day; that default was made in such payment, and the money still remained unpaid; that the equity of redemption descended to *David Griffith*, who, being in possession of the premises, and having no other estate or interest in them than as aforesaid, made a lease of them to defendant Jones for twenty-one years, who entered into possession and made the demise to plaintiff mentioned in the avowry. That, after the said 14^l. of the rent became due from plaintiff as tenant to defendant, the heir of the mortgagee, to whom the premises had descended, gave notice of the several premises to plaintiff, and required him to pay the said sum of 14^l. to him as mortgagee, instead of defendant; and demanded payment thereof from plaintiff, and threatened, in case of non-payment, "to put the law in force," and was then about to put the law in force for the recovery of the said arrear of rent, and to compel payment thereof to him; wherefore plaintiff did then, necessarily and unavoidably, pay the said mortgagee the said sum of 14^l. so in arrear; "and so the plaintiff says, that no part of the said sum of 14^l. of the said rent was, or is, in arrear, as in the avowry" &c., of all which premises defendants afterwards, and before the time when &c., had notice. Verification.

Demurrer, assigning for special causes (amongst others), that the plea attempted to deny the title of defendant Jones; that it shewed no power in the mortgagee to compel the payment; that it amounted to *riens*

in arriere, and should conclude to the country; and that the allegation of a threat to put the law in force was unmeaning, and shewed no compulsion to pay, inasmuch as it did not state what law was meant, &c. Joinder.

1839.

JOHNSON
against
JONES.

W. H. Watson, in support of the demurrer. *Alchorne v. Gomme* (a) is in point, and is very similar in its facts to this case. There a plea by the tenant, stating a demand by the mortgagee of rent in arrear under a lease made by the mortgagor after the mortgage, and a payment accordingly after attornment to, and distress by, the mortgagee, was held bad as amounting to nil habuit in tenementis. It is even a stronger case; for there a distress was alleged, here is nothing but a vague threat. The Court can only notice the legal title of parties, and cannot take into consideration the relative rights of mortgagor and mortgagee; *Eaton v. Jaques* (b) to the contrary is not law. *Alchorne v. Gomme* (a) was questioned in *Pope v. Biggs* (c); but the two are reconcilable, and the latter is no authority for this plea. There the act of the mortgagee was held equivalent to an eviction. Here there was nothing like an eviction; and, if there was, it was after the rent became due, and therefore it is no answer to the landlord's claim. The mortgagee might have ejected the plaintiff, or have waived the trespass and brought use and occupation, as in *Pope v. Biggs* (c), but could not set up a lease to which he was not privy, nor demand the rent *quâ* rent (d). The plea shews, on the face of it, that nothing in fact passed to the lessee; therefore there is a complete estoppel

(a) 2 Bing. 54.

(b) Doug. 455., overruled in *Williams v. Bosanquet*, 1 B. & B. 238.

(c) 9 B. & C. 245.

(d) See *Evans v. Elliott*, ante, 342.

1839.

JOHNSON
against
JONES.

until eviction. If some interest had passed, the lessee might have disputed everything beyond it (a); but this is simply the case of a tenant refusing to pay rent because another person insists upon having it. Besides, if this had really amounted to an eviction, the plaintiff should have traversed the tenancy (b), or, if it was equivalent to payment, as suggested by *Parke B.* in *Pope v. Biggs* (c), he should have simply replied *riens in arriere*, and concluded to the country.

Butt, contra. This is in substance a plea of payment of the rent; and, therefore, resembles *Sapsford v. Fletcher* (d) and *Taylor v. Zamira* (e). The plea does not deny the tenure, for the only tenancy that ever existed, viz. that by estoppel, still continues. There, are indeed, some dicta in *Pope v. Biggs* (g) and elsewhere in support of the notion, that a new tenure is created between the lessee and the mortgagee upon notice by the latter of the mortgage; but there is no direct decision to that effect (h). [Lord *Denman* C. J. There may have been an express power to lease reserved in the mortgage deed.] The payment is made by authority of the law to one who has a right to demand it, which is equivalent to the assent and direction of the lessor himself. *Waddilove v. Barnett* (i), *Brook v. Biggs* (k), and *Dyer v. Bowley* (l), all shew that the tenant may discharge

(a) See *Hill v. Saunders*, 4 B. & C. 529.

(b) See *Hopcraft v. Keys*, 9 Bing. 613. (c) 9 B. & C. 250, 251.

(d) 4 T. R. 511. (e) 6 Taunt. 524.

(g) 9 B. & C. 252. per *Bayley J.*; and see *Waddilove v. Barnett*, 2 New Ca. 543.

(h) See contra, *Evans v. Elliott*, ante, 342. (not reported at the time of this argument).

(i) 2 New Ca. 543. (k) *Ibid.* 572. (l) 2 Bing. 94.

himself

himself by such payment. As to the general statement of the threat by the mortgagee, it is enough to shew that the payment was involuntary; and the notice is almost in terms the same as that in *Pope v. Biggs* (a), which was there held sufficient to justify payment by the lessee. As to *Alchorne v. Gomme* (b), the plea avoids the difficulties which were there relied on by the Court; for the plaintiff has not here, as in that case, made himself a tenant to the mortgagee by attornment, and so liable to distress by his own act. [He was here stopped by the Court.]

1839.

 JOHNSON
against
JONES

LORD DENMAN C. J. This is a plea, not of nil habuit in tenementis, but of payment; and the defect of the lessor's title is shewn only as a medium of proof that the payment was for the benefit, and by reason of the default, of the lessor himself. *Sapsford v. Fletcher* (c) and *Taylor v. Zamira* (d) are therefore authorities to shew that the plea is in substance good. Then is it, in point of form, well pleaded? It professes to set out with particularity the circumstances under which the payment was made. This circumstantial statement is for the benefit of the defendant, and cannot possibly prejudice him. The plea is supported by the authority of many cases, and is opposed to none.

LITLEDAL J. This is not a plea of nil habuit, nor of eviction; nor is it a voluntary payment to one who claims under a prior title. The plaintiff does not deny that he holds as tenant to the defendant; but he shows that the lease was made subject to a prior charge,

(a) 3 B. & C. 245.

(b) 2 Bing. 54.

(c) 4 T. R. 511.

(d) 6 Taunt. 524.

1839.

 JOHNSON
 against
 JONES.

namely, the mortgage, which he was compelled to pay. The payment was of money not claimed as rent, but as due upon the loan by way of mortgage. *Sapsford v. Fletcher (a)* and *Taylor v. Zamira (b)* were both cases in which the payment pleaded was of charges created prior to the lease; and it makes no difference whether the charge be an annuity, as in *Taylor v. Zamira (b)*, or a mortgage. Then it is objected that this is payment, and should be so pleaded: if, however, the plea distinctly shews payment, I see no impropriety in stating the circumstances under which it was made. The same objection was made without success in *Sapsford v. Fletcher (a)*.

WILLIAMS J. I am of the same opinion. This is nothing like a plea of nil habuit, but is a statement of facts which shew an authority in law justifying payment to a third party. In principle, therefore, it is not distinguishable from the cases relied upon in argument. It is objected, amongst the causes of special demurrer, that there is no distinct allegation to shew compulsion, but only a demand and threats to enforce the law; the same objection, however, applies to the plea in *Taylor v. Zamira (b)*.

COLERIDGE J. The plea may be supported without interfering with *Alchorne v. Gomme (c)*. Far from denying the defendant's title to grant the lease, it recognises his title throughout, and admits the money to have been rent due and in arrear to him, and proceeds to shew how that rent has been satisfied. As to the form

(a) 4 T. R. 511.

(b) 6 Trunt. 524.

(c) 2 Bing. 54.

of pleading, it is the same as in the cases already cited, which are in all respects completely in point.

S.

Judgment for the plaintiff. (a)

1839.

JOHNSON
against
JOHN.

(a) Though the plea in *Taylor v. Zamira* was objected to as amounting to *riens in arriere* (see 6 Taunt. 527.), it is observable that the demurrer was *general* both in that case and in *Sapford v. Fletcher*. On the effect of the special conclusion "*et sic*," in curing an argumentative traverse, see *Com. Dig. Pleader*, E. 30. See also *Cecil v. Harris*, Cro. Eliz. 140. *Galloway v. Susack*, 1 Salk. 284.

The QUEEN against The Inhabitants of NARBERTH NORTH.

Saturday,
February 2d.

AT the quarter sessions for the county of *Pembroke*, the Court quashed a rate in which the appellant was assessed to the relief of the poor in respect of property described as "*Canniston Wood*," subject to the opinion of this Court on the following case.

The appellant is the owner and occupier of a wood called *Canniston Wood* in the parish of *Narberth North*, which is of the extent of 350 acres, or thereabouts. The wood consists chiefly of oak; but there are a few ash, alder, and beech trees growing therein. The oaks do not grow from acorns, or original or maiden trees, but from old oak stools belonging to trees that were last felled about the year 1786. About that year the wood was cut down by the then proprietor; and at that time they were cut from old stools. Since that period they have again sprung or grown up from the old stools or stumps; but no regular cutting of them has

A wood, consisting of oak growing from old stools, with a few ash, alder, and beech trees, had not been felled for fifty years until three years before it was rated. During the last three years the owner had annually cut the worst shoots, selling the poles by the dozen for colliery purposes and firewood, and the bark by the ton. The wood was also occasionally waste-weeded to improve the plantation.

The sessions found that the wood was not

saleable underwood within stat. 43 Eliz. c. 2., and the Court of Q. B. confirmed the order.

Whether woods be saleable underwoods within the statute, is a question of fact, and the Court of Q. B. will confirm the finding of the sessions upon it, unless it be evidently wrong.

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The Inhabit-
ants of
NARBERTH
NORTH.

taken place since that time until within the last four years. Several of the trees grow from the same stool or stump. They are called poles, and are used for colliery purposes and for fire wood. The appellant during each of the last three years has cut down portions of these poles, and sold them. The mode of treating them while felling is to cut off, at the stump, the worse shoots, and leave the best and most promising shoots to stand for further growth. These poles are sold by the dozen, and not by admeasurement, as large timber is sold. They have been occasionally waste-weeded by cutting down the crooked shoots to improve the trees that remained. Waste-weedings are permitted to lie on the ground to rot. The trees or poles cut down by the appellants had been growing for fifty years. The bark is stripped from the poles and sold by the ton; and the poles thus stripped are sold for the use of collieries by the dozen. The Court of Quarter Sessions considered that these trees were not saleable underwood within the meaning of stat. 43 *Elizabeth*, c. 2., and ordered the rate to be quashed.

The question for the Court was whether these trees were such saleable underwoods. If they were, then the rate was to be confirmed; if not, then to be quashed.

John Evans and *R. V. Richards*, in support of the order of sessions. *Rex v. Ferrybridge (a)* is in point. This is neither underwood, nor saleable underwood. If it be admitted not to be timber, it does not follow that it is underwood; *Rex v. Ferrybridge (a)*; where *Holroyd J.* says that the word is to be taken in its

(a) 1 B. & C. 386.

popular sense, in which it means coppice, as distinguished from *haut bois*. So it may be *sylva cædua* without being underwood, for the two terms are not synonymous; *Best J.* in *Rex v. Ferrybridge (a)*. If any thing be underwood here, it is the waste-weeding only. In *Rex v. Mirfield (b)* the principal question was how to estimate the annual value of that which was admitted to be underwood. In *Aubrey v. Fisher (c)*, the question was treated as one of fact, proper for the consideration of the jury; here the justices have found that the woods are not saleable underwoods within stat. 43 *Eliz. c. 2.*; and this finding, therefore, ought to be decisive. In *Rex v. Ferrybridge (a)* it was considered that to make it saleable underwood the "main object" of planting must be the "prospect of deriving a profit by sale." Here only the worse shoots are cut off, and the better left. The trees have been left to grow for fifty years; there has been no regular time for cutting; the cutting indeed has been nothing more than the ordinary practice of thinning a plantation for the purpose of improving it. Whether the wood be titheable, or not, is immaterial.

E. V. Williams, contra. The appellant is liable as the occupier of underwood of a renewable nature, and which, under proper management, is capable of yielding a succession of profits. Trees or timber are not generally rateable as such, because they yield no such annual or successive profits; but here a profit is made by cutting the shoots produced by the stools. The wood having been cut fifty years ago, this is the second growth of germins. Suppose the appellant had been rated just

1839.

THE QUEEN
against
The Inhabit-
ants of
NARBERTH
NORTH.

(a) 1 B. & C. 388.

(b) 10 East, 219.

(c) 10 East, 446.

after

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The Inhabit-
ants of
NARBERTH
NORTH.

after the woods had been then felled, could he have objected to the rate? He could not have then said that he intended to take no further profit from them; for stat. 35 Hen. 8. c. 17. prohibits the conversion of such woods as *Canniston Wood* into tillage. In *Rex v. Ferrybridge* (a) it was impossible to treat fir and larch as underwood; for, when felled, they yield no new shoots. Oak may be underwood, as well as other wood, for the terms *haut bois* and *soubs-bois* (which originally were terms of woodcraft) apply as well to timber as other trees; *Com. Dig. Chase*, (N.) The old authorities distinguish timber by the name of *maresme*. Lord Hardwicke, in *Walton v. Tryon* (b), observes that "great part of the coppices or underwoods of the kingdom are germins from the stools of timber wood;" and in *Evans v. Rowe* (c) it was held that wood, yielded by such germins and springing from old oak stools, was titheable, not as *gros bois* or timber trees, but as *sylva cædua*.

LITTTLEDALE J. (d). The first question is, whether this wood is underwood? Small wood, never likely to be used for timber, may be called underwood; so may plantations of timber trees, not intended for permanent growth, but to be cut at stated intervals for use as hop poles, or for other similar purposes. Here the poles were never meant for growth as timber, and may therefore be properly called underwood. Then are they *saleable* underwoods? A capacity of being sold for profit belongs to all wood; the statute must therefore be taken to mean underwoods cut down for sale at regular and

(a) 1 B. & C. 386.

(b) 2 Gwill. 832.

(c) *M^cCl. & Y.* 577.

(d) Lord Denman C. J. was absent.

calculable periods. The question therefore becomes one of fact, which the justices at sessions must decide, taking into consideration the mode of managing that sort of property, the time of cutting, and other circumstances. In *Aubrey v. Fisher* (a) the opinion of the jury was taken on the question. Here, that of the justices has been given; and their decision, not being evidently wrong, should be conclusive.

1899.

—
The QUEEN
against
The Inhabit-
ants of
NARBERTH
NORTH.

WILLIAMS J. The statute, by expressly mentioning underwoods, virtually exempts timber trees. The same rule of construction has been considered to exclude all mines except those specified in the act (b). The nature of the tree does not determine the question, which is one of fact depending upon the treatment of the woods in each case. The law has laid down no precise rule, nor are the sessions bound by any; I cannot therefore say that they were wrong.

COLERIDGE J. I am of the same opinion, though I have not arrived at it without difficulty. If the point were *res integra*, I should be inclined to say that this was saleable underwood within the meaning of the statute. I am not satisfied with the definitions of saleable underwood which are to be found in the cases cited; nor can I think that the object and purpose of the plantation should be taken as the tests. The rule, as stated by Mr. Williams, appears to me to be a reasonable one; viz. that, if the underwoods are in their nature renewable, and capable, under proper management, of yielding a succession of profits at stated intervals of time, they are

(a) 10 *East*, 446.

(b) See dict. Lord Tenterden C. J. in *Res v. Sedgely*, 2 B. & Ad. 73.

rateable.

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The Inhabit-
ants of
NARBERTH
NORTH.

rateable. The fraud or neglect of the owner should not be made a ground of exemption. Here, however, the sessions have not found any fraud or neglect; and the woods must therefore be taken to have been managed in the usual and regular course. If so, there was here no regular or calculable succession of profits. The cuttings do not appear to have been with a view to profit. The waste weeding is merely to promote the growth of the trees; and the worst shoots only are cut for fuel and colliery purposes. Perhaps the sessions may have formed a wrong opinion upon the facts: but they best know the custom and practice of their own neighbourhood; and, unless their opinion appears to us to be clearly wrong, we should uphold it.

S.

Order of sessions confirmed.

Saturday,
February 2d.

The QUEEN *against* BUSH.

Where a parish consists of several tithings, each of which has immemorially repaired its own highways, the parish cannot form a board under sect. 18 of 5 & 6 W. 4. c. 50. (Highway Act); and rates made by such board, although separately for each tithing, are bad.

AT the *Wilts Epiphany* sessions in 1838, *John Bush* appealed against a rate made for the repair of the highways in the borough of *Bradford* in the said county. The sessions confirmed the rate, subject to the opinion of this Court on the following case.

The parish of *Bradford* is a parish consisting of eight several tithings. There are not separate overseers for each of the several tithings; nor do the tithings separately maintain their own poor: but there are four overseers annually appointed from some of the tithings for the whole parish; and there is one entire rate on all the tithings for the general maintenance of the poor of the whole parish. It has been the general custom in the parish to appoint surveyors of the highways from each tithing.

tithing in the parish separately, and to raise a rate in each separate tithing for the repairs of the highways within the tithing, which has been applied to the repairs of the roads within the tithing in which the rate is raised ; and there has been no general rate for the repairs of the highways in the whole parish conjointly. The practice of appointing separate surveyors of each distinct tithing in the parish, and of separately rating the inhabitants of the tithings to the repair of the highways within the tithings only, continued until the vestry meeting for the nomination of overseers of the parish held on 31st *March* 1836, when stat. 5 & 6 *W.* 4. c. 50. (Highway Act) had come into operation, at which meeting it was unanimously resolved, "That it was expedient to form a board for the superintendence of the highways of the parish, and for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of 5 & 6 *W.* 4. c. 50.," and thirteen persons (some one or more being selected from each of the eight tithings) were then duly elected to serve the office of surveyors of the highways for the year ensuing, and to compose such board. The board, so appointed, managed the repairs of the highways until the next annual appointment of overseers, and appointed a clerk and a general surveyor, but made separate rates for each tithing in the parish, and applied the monies raised in each tithing for the repairs of the highways within such tithing, and not to the general repairs of all the highways in the parish. At the annual meeting for the nomination of overseers for the ensuing year, on 31st *March* 1837, a board was again formed, in pursuance of 5 & 6 *W.* 4. c. 50., for the superintendence of the highways of the parish, and for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of the said act ; and four
surveyors

1839.

The QUEEN
against
BUSH.

1839.]

THE QUEEN
against
BUSH.

surveyors for the borough and a surveyor for each tithing constituted the board. The board of surveyors, so formed, continued the clerk and general surveyor as in the preceding year, and made a separate rate for the borough tithing of *Bradford*, which was the subject of the appeal. The appellant contended that, since the act 5 & 6 W. 4. c. 50. came into operation, and since the passing of the resolutions of vestry on the 31st of *March* 1836, the rate ought to be a general rate for the whole parish, and not a separate rate for each tithing, and that therefore the separate rate for the borough tithing ought to be quashed. The sessions found that the parish of *Bradford* consists of eight tithings: that from time immemorial the tithings have been severally and separately assessed for the maintenance of the highways within such tithings respectively, and have had separate surveyors for such tithings respectively, down to the 31st of *March* 1836; that such immemorial custom was a legal custom; that, notwithstanding the act 5 & 6 W. 4. c. 50., or any thing done by the inhabitants of the said parish of *Bradford* from 31st of *March* 1836, the said custom of separately rating was a lawful and subsisting custom down to the time of the appeal.

The questions for the opinion of the Court were, first, Whether such custom, as found by the sessions, was valid in law: and, secondly, Whether, the inhabitants of the borough tithing and the several tithings above mentioned having united in forming a board pursuant to 5 & 6 W. 4. c. 50., there should now be a separate rate for each tithing, or one rate for the whole parish.

Bingham,

Bingham, in support of the order of sessions. The custom found by the sessions is a valid one. [This was admitted by *Follett*, *contra*.] Then the tithings must be separately rated, notwithstanding stat. 5 & 6 *W.* 4. c. 50., which contains no provision to alter the mode of rating. The 16th section shews the intention of the legislature in an analogous case; for it provides that, where several parishes are united into a district, the monies levied in each parish shall be applied by the district surveyor for its own benefit. It will be objected that a board cannot legally be formed for the general purposes of the parish. But, supposing the objection to be open on this case, the appointment of the board is at all events good, if not under sect. 18, at least under sect. 6, the rates having been made separately for each tithing.

1839.

The QUEEN
against
BUSH.

Sir *W. W. Follett*, *contra*. The act makes no difference in the liability to repair; but the rate is not made by the proper party. Sect. 6 authorises the appointment of surveyors by the parish. By the interpretation clause (sect. 5), "parish" may mean "a tithing" maintaining its own highways. Therefore each tithing should appoint its own surveyor, who should make the rate. If the tithing be sufficiently populous to justify the appointment of a board, then it may avail itself of the provisions of sect. 18; but there can be no board for the whole parish with power to rate each tithing. If, indeed, the board, by which the rate on the borough tithing was made, had happened to consist of the surveyors of that tithing, and they had signed the rate, there might have been some ground for supporting it; but that does not appear. It is clear that the inhabit-

ants

1839.

The QUEEN
against
BUSH.

ants of the parish intended to appoint a parish board under sect. 18, which could not be done, if the custom was a legal one.

Per Curiam (a). The second question assumes the legality of the board, which is not legal. The order must be quashed.

S.

Order of sessions quashed.

(a) *Littledale, Williams, and Coleridge, Js.*

Saturday,
February 2d.

The QUEEN against The Inhabitants of the Township of BISHOPTON.

Pauper, whose children were engaged to work for three years at a mill, removed with his family to a cottage rented by the mill owner, C., for the convenience of families so employed. The bargain between him and C. was, that a stated weekly payment for the use of the cottage should be deducted from the children's wages. Pauper, who was not himself in the service of C., continued to occupy the cottage for sixteen years, during all which time, and after he quitted it, some one or more of his children continued to work at the mill. He quitted without regular notice, in consequence of the sale of the cottage.

Held, that pauper's occupation was as tenant, and not as servant, and was sufficient to gain a settlement.

ON appeal against an order of two justices for the removal of *George Winterburn* and *Ann* his wife from the township of *Ripon*, in the liberty of *Ripon* in the West Riding of the county of *York*, to the township of *Bishopton*, in the said liberty, the sessions confirmed the order, subject to the opinion of this Court on the following case.

Prior to the year 1813, the pauper *George Winterburn*, his wife, and nine children, resided at *Bishop Thorton*, in the county of *York*, and some of his children worked in a mill there. In that year he removed with his family into a cottage at *Bishopton*, situated within one eighth of a mile from a flax-mill belonging to one *Mrs. Coates*. This cottage, and two others adjoining it, were rented by *Mrs. Coates* from a *Mr. Swinden*, for the convenience of the families employed at her mill, some

of

of the children of each family living in these cottages being so employed. The pauper had six children, who worked at the mill, and who were engaged for three years. The pauper made the bargain with Mrs. Coates's manager, since dead; which was, that 2s. per week was to be paid for the use of the cottage, and to be deducted from the children's wages. The children continued to work for the three years originally contracted for, and some of them for a longer period. The pauper continued to occupy the cottage until the year 1829; at which time one of his sons, being then twenty-four years of age, still worked there, and continued to do so after the pauper had left the cottage and removed to *Ripon*. During the time he occupied the cottage, the pauper worked as a husbandman for various persons, and occasionally for Mrs. Coates, but never was her servant. In 1829 the three cottages were sold by *Swinden* to a third party; and the usual notice was given to Mrs. Coates to deliver up possession thereof to the purchaser. The pauper in consequence was required to move; which he accordingly did after a few weeks, without having received any regular notice to quit. During his occupation of this cottage, the pauper rented other tenements within the township of *Bishopton* of a sufficient value, if added to the cottage, to confer a settlement in that township. The question for the Court was, whether under the foregoing circumstances the occupation of the cottage by *George Winterburn* was such a renting of a tenement as to aid in conferring a settlement within the meaning of stat. 13 & 14 Car. 2. c. 12.

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The Inhabit-
ants of
BISHOPTON.

Talbot and *J. Ingham*, in support of the order of sessions. The question is, whether the pauper's occu-
VOL. IX. 3 K pation

1889.

The QUEEN
against
The Inhabit-
ants of
BISHOPTON.

pation was independent of service, or ancillary to it. Here was in fact no continuing relation of master and servant; for it was not the service of the pauper, but of his children, that was contemplated. The pauper would have continued to occupy although the mill had been burnt down; and in fact he did continue in possession long after the engagement of his children had expired. His settlement by occupation cannot be avoided by shewing that some members of his family were in the service of his landlord. *Regina v. Wall Lynn* (a) is a stronger case than the present; for there the master paid the rent, rates, and taxes, yet the servant was held to be the rateable occupier and tenant. In *Rex v. Field* (b) the appellant merely occupied a room in the house of the employer. In *Rex v. Cheshunt* (c) the occupation was connected with the service and ceased upon dismissal. *Rex v. Minster* (d), *Rex v. Lower Heyford* (e), *Rex v. Cherry Willingham* (g), *Rex v. Iken* (h), are all in favour of the settlement. *Rex v. Fillongley* (i) shews that a tenancy of the slightest kind is sufficient. The sessions have in fact decided the question by stating that the pauper never was the servant of *Mrs. Coates*.

Dundas, contra. The occupation was merely ancillary to the service of the children. Every factory is surrounded by cottages occupied on similar terms. It is as if a gentleman had permitted his coachman to bring all his family to live with him on the premises of the master, because his sons would be useful as stable-boys.

(a) 8 A. & E. 379.

(c) 1 B. & Ald. 473.

(e) 1 B. & Ad. 75.

(h) 2 A. & E. 147.

(b) 5 T. R. 587.

(d) 3 M. & S. 276.

(g) 1 B. & C. 626.

(i) 1 T. R. 458.

If the father had died, the children would have continued to occupy; and if the children had died, the father would have been turned out. The real inquiry always is, what was the principal object in letting the party into possession? In *Regina v. Wall Lynn* (a) the pauper had been always rated and treated as tenant, which is not found to be the case here. *Rex v. Seacroft* (b) and *Rex v. Kelstern* (c) are in point. *Rex v. Cheshunt* (d) very nearly resembles the present case. In *Rex v. Minster* (e) the tenement was the feeding of cows, and was of course quite unconnected with service. So in *Rex v. St. Mary Newington* (g) the occupation as curate was held to be an interest independent of that of the rector.

1839.

THE QUEEN
against
The Inhabit-
ants of
BISHOPTON.

LITLEDALE J. (h) I think the pauper gained a settlement in *Bishopton*. In the cases cited the other way there was the relation of master and servant between the owner of the tenement and the occupier. Here the pauper engages for the service of his children, and arranges with Mrs. Coates for the residence of himself and his family in the cottage. This is clearly a renting of the cottage by him. The renting was indeed connected with the service of the children; for the cottage would probably not have been let to the pauper, or hired by him, but for the service of the children; but he agrees to pay rent for it. This imports the relation of landlord and tenant, and there is nothing in the case to rebut the presumption.

(a) 8 A. & E. 379.

(b) 2 M. & S. 472.

(c) 5 M. & S. 136.

(d) 1 B. & Ald. 473.

(e) 3 M. & S. 276.

(g) 5 B. & Ald. 540.

(h) Lord Denman C. J. was absent.

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The Inhabit-
ants of
BISHOPSTON.

WILLIAMS J. In the cases referred to, in which the occupation has been held insufficient, the residence was identical with the service, or was incidental to and inseparable from it. Here there was a renting by one who was not servant; and the deduction from the wages of his children was only a mode of paying the rent.

COLERIDGE J. The sessions should have decided this point as a matter of fact. I agree with Mr. *Dundas*, that the principal question is the object of the parties, and that, if the occupation was ancillary to the service, so as to make the occupation of the servant merely the occupation of the master, then no settlement was gained. The pauper here seems to have thought he had a right to dispose of his children's labour, and to pay his rent out of their wages. Upon the whole, I agree with the rest of the Court.

S.

Order of sessions confirmed.

Saturday,
February 2d.

The QUEEN against The Company of Proprietors
of the BLACKFRIARS' Bridge.

A company, incorporated by stat. (57 G. 3. c. lviii.), for rebuilding a public bridge, was enabled to raise a capital stock by shares, with the usual

powers of mortgaging tolls, &c. The dividends were limited to 7½ per cent. on the shares; and the excess was to be applied to paying off the subscribed capital, and to raising a fund for discharging mortgage debts, &c., and repairing the bridge; after which the tolls were to cease. The tolls were in fact absorbed by the payment of interest to mortgagees, the liquidation of debts, and the expense of repairs, leaving nothing for the payment of any interest or dividend to the shareholders. Held, that the company was rateable to the relief of the poor in respect of the bridge and the land occupied by it.

sessions

sessions confirmed the rate, subject to the opinion of this Court on the following case.

By an act passed in 1817 (a) for building a bridge across the river *Irwell* from *Water Street* in the township of *Salford* to *St. Mary's Gate* in the township of *Manchester*, and for making proper avenues thereto (which act was to form part of the case), reciting that the then wooden bridge, called *Blackfriars' Bridge*, was extremely inconvenient, and that it would be of great utility, not only to the inhabitants of the said townships but to the public, if the said bridge were taken down and another erected in lieu thereof, for the passage of horses and carriages as well as foot passengers, certain persons were incorporated by the name of "The Company of Proprietors of the *Blackfriars' Bridge*," and were empowered to raise and contribute amongst themselves any sum or sums of money not exceeding in the whole the sum of 17,700*l.*, to be divided into shares of 50*l.* each, which said sum it was thereby declared should be laid out and applied in the first place in discharging the expenses of obtaining and passing that act, and of the surveys, plans, estimates, and other incidental expenses relating thereto, and then for and towards the making and completing the said bridge, and paying the purchase money for the messuages, lands, and hereditaments thereby authorised to be purchased, and otherwise for putting the said act into execution. It was further enacted that, if the said sum should be found insufficient for the building and completing the bridge and the avenues thereto, and all necessary charges and expenses relating thereto, &c., then the company might raise the further sum of

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The
BLACKFRIARS'
Bridge
Company.

(a) Stat. 57 G. 3. c. lviii. (local and personal, public).

1839.

—
The Queen
against
The
Blackfriars'
Bridge
Company.

12,000*l.*, either by fresh contributions or subscriptions, or by way of mortgage of the bridge, and the tolls, pontage, and duties thereof, &c. And it was also provided that the interest of the monies borrowed on mortgage should be paid half yearly, in preference to any dividends and distribution to the proprietors, and should be duly provided for and set apart before such dividend or distribution should be made or declared, but that the mortgagees should not be deemed proprietors of any shares. The company were empowered to set up turnpike gates or toll gates, and take certain tolls in the act specified, which were to be applied in the first place in discharging the expenses of obtaining the act, and, from time to time, of carrying the same into execution and of keeping the bridge in repair; and, in the next place, in paying interest to the mortgagees, the surplus thereof to be divided amongst the proprietors in proportion to the amount of their respective shares in manner following, that is to say, that they should be entitled to receive, out of the tolls, interest after the rate of 5 per cent. per annum upon the money paid from time to time upon their respective shares, which interest should commence from the time or times of payment thereof; and from and after the time when the said bridge should be opened, the proprietors should, instead of such interest, be entitled to receive interest and dividends upon their respective shares out of the tolls, so as that such proprietors did not receive more than 7*l.* 10*s.* per cent. per annum upon the amount of such shares; and, when such surplus should be more than sufficient to pay such interest and dividend of 7*l.* 10*s.* per cent. per annum, the excess should, from time to time, be applied rateably in the payment and discharge of the principal sums advanced by the proprietors in pursuance of the act,

act, who should then only be entitled to receive interest and dividends as aforesaid upon the residue; and so until the whole amount of the said capital stock of 17,700*l.* should have been paid off; and from thenceforth the proprietors should cease to receive any further share of the said tolls or any payment in respect thereof, except as hereinafter mentioned; and the tolls should, after the payment of such expenses and interest to the mortgagees, thenceforth, from time to time, be laid out in the name of the company in the purchase of Bank stock, to accumulate in the nature of compound interest until sufficient for paying off the mortgages, &c., and raising a fund for repairing the bridge; after which, tolls and duties should wholly cease.

In pursuance of the powers of the act, the company purchased land for making the bridge, and subscribed among themselves the sum of 17,700*l.*, and borrowed on mortgage the further sum of 12,000*l.* These sums were not sufficient for building and completing the bridge, and the other charges and expenses which the company were empowered to defray; and they incurred a further debt in the completion of the undertaking, the balance of which debt, viz. 3225*l.*, still remained unpaid. The bridge was opened to the public about the year 1822.

The tolls hitherto received by the company have been by them applied, after defraying the necessary expenses of keeping the bridge in repair, &c., in keeping down the interest of the mortgages and in the liquidation of the above debt, and in payment from time to time of the interest due upon the unliquidated portions of such further debt; no surplus has hitherto existed for a dividend, and none has been declared; and

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The
BLACKFRIARS'
Bridge
Company.

1839.

—
The QUEEN
against
The
BLACKFRIARS
Bridge
Company.

the company have not yet received any dividend or interest upon the subscribed sum of 17,700*l.* or any part thereof. The tolls are let in the current year for 1500*l.*, and were let in the preceding year for 1180*l.*

The question for the opinion of the Court was, whether the company of proprietors were liable to be rated under the circumstances, and with reference to the above enactment.

Bere and *Martin*, in support of the order of sessions. The appellants obtained the act of parliament for their own, as well as for the public, benefit; and they have a beneficial interest in the tolls. That the undertaking has not yet been a profitable one is immaterial; *Rex v. Parrot (a)*, *Governors of the Bristol Poor v. Wait (b)*, *Rex v. St. Giles, York (c)*. The true test is the applicability of the profits, if any, to private advantage. Perhaps, too, the interest paid to the mortgagees may here be considered as profit. [*Littledale J.* The interest so paid is not profit.] That the dividend is limited to 7½ per cent. makes no difference: such limitation is now very general in the case of numerous private speculations founded on acts of parliament, as railways, &c. That the bridge may, at a future time, be thrown open for the free use of the public, does not affect the present liability of the company. If there could, by no possibility, be any beneficial interest accruing to individuals from the tolls, then the case might be within *Rex v. Liverpool (d)* *Rex v. The Trustees of the River Weaver Navigation (e)* and *Rex v. Beverley (g)*.

(a) 5 *T. R.* 593.(c) 3 *B. & Ad.* 573.(e) 7 *B. & C.* 70. (n.)(b) 5 *A. & E.* 1.(d) 7 *B. & C.* 61.(g) 6 *A. & E.* 645.

Peel and Walker, contra. The principle is not in dispute; but, first, the property is not rateable at all; and, secondly, at all events, it is not rateable at present. The recital in the act shews that the public benefit alone was in the view of the legislature. The contributors are only the creditors of the corporate body, which itself can derive no profit. They are on the footing of mortgagees, with the power, in a certain and distant event, of taking interest at the rate of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. It makes no difference that the corporation borrows money from its own members as well as from strangers. It is no more than if, in the case of the *Liverpool Docks* or the *Weaver Navigation*, parliament had relaxed the usury laws, and permitted the trustees to borrow money at a higher rate of interest in order to facilitate loans; yet it is plain that such a provision could not have varied the decision in those cases. That the shareholders are regarded by the act as mere incumbrancers, appears from the provisions for paying them off, and for giving a preference to their claim for interest. Railroad companies differ in this respect, that no ultimate cessation of interest is ever contemplated by them; here, the ultimate destination is for public use alone. The late case of *Regina v. Mayor, &c. of Liverpool* (a) shews that some benefit may be received by individuals, as salaries, without making the property rateable. [*Lit- tledale J.* There the salary was only given for duty done. No man, as corporator, could ever derive any private pecuniary advantage from the corporate fund.] All the tolls might lawfully have been applied (b) towards com-

1839.

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The QUEEN
against
The
BLACKFRIARS'
Bridge
Company.

(a) *Antè*, p. 435.

(b) The judgment of Lord Abinger C. B. was cited for this point from the report of *Thicknesse v. Lancaster Canal Company* in 8 *Law Journ. N. S. Exch.* 49. See *S. C.* 4 *M. & W.* 472.

1889.

The Queen
against
The
Blackfriars'
Bridge
Company,

pleting the work : here the company have in effect done so ; for they have completed the work and pledged the tolls as security for the repayment of the money advanced for that purpose. The company are therefore in the state contemplated by *Holroyd J.* in *Rex v. The Hull Dock Company (a)*, where, speaking of repairs, he says, " If the specific rates had been, so far as they were required, appropriated to that purpose only, I should have entertained considerable doubt whether any property vested in the trustees, which could properly be made the subject of a rate beyond the surplus which might happen to remain in their hands after satisfying the expenses attending the maintenance and repair of the works," At all events, the property is not rateable till it is productive. It is true that a losing speculation may be the subject of rate ; but here, not only is no private profit derived from it, but the concern itself yields no profit. It cannot possibly be productive for many years. At present, the company has received neither interest nor dividend on the subscribed shares. *Rex v. Mirfield (b)* and *Rex v. Narberth North (c)* shew that there must be a calculable succession of profits before a rate can be imposed.

LITTLEDALE J. (d). The case is not distinguishable from that of a private person, who builds a bridge on his land for the public benefit, and, in order to reimburse himself the expense of the work, procures an act of parliament to enable him to take toll for that purpose : there land would be occupied, and, so long as the toll was taken, beneficially occupied ; and, after the party

(a) 5 M. & S. 402.

(b) 10 East, 219.

(c) *Ante*, p. 815.

(d) Lord Denman C. J. was absent.

was reimbursed, the toll would cease and the bridge become public and free: yet the land would no doubt be rateable so long as the toll was received; and it would be no answer that the owner was only repaying himself, or receiving interest on his outlay. In the present case, the proprietors are further entitled to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. beyond the usual interest. It is immaterial that the expense of maintenance and the interest upon debts, for the present, absorb the profits, or that there is provision for the total cessation of toll hereafter: when the latter event takes place, of course the liability to be rated will also cease. In the case of the *Liverpool* corporation (a) the fund was entirely appropriated to public purposes, and no private profit could be reaped from it.

1832.

The QUEEN
against
The
BLACKFRIARS'
Bridge
Company.

WILLIAMS J. The application of the profits in this case distinguishes it from those in which it has been held that public property is exempt from rates. In *Rex v. The Commissioners of Salter's Load Sluice* (b), which is the foundation of the later cases, it appeared that the profits could never be appropriated to any but strictly public purposes. The same observation applies to the other cases of exemption cited in argument.

COLERIDGE J. This is a clear case of property which yields a profit. If there is a beneficial occupier entitled to the profits, he is rateable. The tolls are partially applicable to private purposes; and the occupation is consequently beneficial.

S.

Order of sessions confirmed.

(a) *Ante*, p. 485.

(b) 4 T. R. 780.

1839.

Saturday,
February 2d.

The QUEEN *against* The Inhabitants of
OUTWELL.

Under sect. 79 of stat. 4 & 5 W. 4. c. 76., copies of all the examinations touching the settlement of a pauper, taken by the justices upon making an order of removal, must be sent with the copy of the order; and the omission of any one examination is ground of appeal, although it may not contain the evidence upon which the order was in fact founded.

ON appeal against an order for the removal of *Penelope Bott* and her eight children, from the parish of *Outwell* to the hamlet of *March*, the sessions for the county of *Norfolk* quashed the order, subject to the following case.

The removing magistrates took the examination of *Penelope Bott*, *John Bott* the father of the pauper's husband, and *Charles Smith*, which stated a settlement gained by the pauper's husband by apprenticeship in the appellant parish. Before making the order, they also took the examination of one *William Clarke*, which referred to the hiring of some land by the pauper's husband in the respondent parish: but the magistrates made the order of removal upon the examination of the said *Penelope Bott*, *John Bott*, and *Charles Smith* only; and those were the examinations sent with a duplicate order of removal to the appellant parish. The land as to which *William Clarke* was examined was the same tenement by the hiring of which the Court adjudged the pauper to have gained a settlement in the respondent parish. The notice of the grounds of appeal was as follows:—

1. Because the person, who acted as overseer in obtaining the said order, was not duly appointed.
2. Because copies of all the examinations touching the settlement of the said paupers, taken by the said justices previous to signing the order, were not sent with the counterpart

counterpart thereof. 3. Because the paupers were settled in the parish of *Outwell*.

It was contended, on the part of the respondents, that, as the notice of appeal did not deny the settlement stated in the examinations of *Penelope Bott*, *John Bott*, and *Charles Smith*, it must be taken to be admitted, and any evidence of that settlement was unnecessary; and the Court were of that opinion. It was then objected, by the appellants, that the examination of *William Clarke* ought to have been sent with the duplicate order of removal to the appellant parish; but the objection was overruled by the Court. The appellants then proposed to give evidence of a settlement in the respondent parish by renting a tenement. The respondents objected that the terms of the notice of appeal were too general, and that such evidence could not be given. The Court, however, received the evidence and quashed the order. The following were the questions submitted to the opinion of this Court.

1. Whether the examination of *William Clarke* ought to have been sent with the order of removal. 2. Whether, under the terms of the notice of appeal, evidence of the settlement in *Outwell* could be given (a).

Bere and *Byles*, in support of the order of sessions. Stat. 4 & 5 W. 4. c. 76. s. 79. provides that no pauper shall be removed or removable until twenty-one days after a notice in writing of his being chargeable, accompanied by a copy or counterpart of the order of re-

(a) The first point was relied upon in support of the order of sessions, because the ruling of the sessions on the latter was considered by counsel to be at variance with *Rex v. The Justices of Derbyshire*, 6 A. & E. 885.

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1839.

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The QUEEN
against
The Inhabit-
ants of
OUTWELL.

1899.

The Queen
against
The Inhabit-
ants of
Outwell.

removal, and "a copy of the examination upon which such order was made, shall have been sent" &c. In *Regina v. Britham* (a) it was held that non-compliance with these requisitions is ground of appeal. Here all the examinations ought to have been sent, and not those only which induced the justices to remove the pauper. No discretion is left in this respect to the removing justices. The examination withheld may have supplied the appellants, if not with the means of resisting the removal, at least with some proof of a settlement elsewhere. Here it rather seems that the suppressed examination tended to shew a settlement in *Outwell*.

Manning and Palmer, contra. The word "examination," in the singular number, is used in both sect. 79 and sect. 81. The latter section prevents the respondent parish from shewing any ground of removal, except the one which appears on such examination. This shews the object of the provision which requires it to be sent, and is a sufficient check upon any improper suppression. To require all the evidence, whether material or not, to be sent, will occasion expense, and expose the removing parish to the risk of paying costs under sect. 83, for setting out frivolous grounds of removal. The statute does not require any examination to be sent but that "upon which the order was made." Here it is expressly found that the order was not made on *Clarke's* examination.

LITLEDALE J. (b) The entire evidence, upon the examination, ought to be sent. It is true the order may

(a) 8 A. & E. 375.

(b) Lord Denman C. J. was absent.

have

have been made solely upon the testimony of the three persons whose examinations were forwarded; but that of *Clarke*, as it appears to have related to the subject of the settlement, ought to have been also sent.

1839.

—
The Queen
against
The Inhabit-
ants of
OUTWELL.

WILLIAMS J. I have entertained some doubt; but, on the whole, it will be better to hold that all the examinations should be sent. A different decision may perhaps lead to mischief. It appears that the examination of *Clarke* related to the hiring of land in the respondent parish, and may have been material.

COLERIDGE J. I am clearly of opinion that the examination of *Clarke* should have been sent. The provisions of the statute in this respect have proved very beneficial, and ought to be supported in their fullest extent. The word "examination" means the entire body of evidence taken on the occasion of making the order, the whole of which should be sent, that the parish, which is ordered to receive the pauper, may have an opportunity of considering whether that order should be resisted or submitted to. Any other construction would put parties to the inconvenience of enquiring how far the different examinations had been acted upon in making the order. Bad faith on the part of the parish officers, whose duty it is to send the examination, might lead them to suppress the evidence that was unfavourable to them, and to forward only the rest. The word "examination" may be treated as nomen collectivum. Arguments have been drawn from sections 81 and 83, which are said to point to a narrower construction; but, if the object of the legislature had been merely to confine the removing parish, on the trial of an appeal,

to

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The Inhabit-
ants of
OUTWELL.

to the grounds contained in the examination, why not simply provide that notice of the ground of removal should alone be sent? As to sect. 83, it provides only against frivolous grounds contained in the *order*, not in the *examination*. Upon the whole, expense is more likely to be prevented by a candid statement of the whole of the evidence, than by forwarding an *ex parte* statement, on which no reliance will be placed.

S.

Order of sessions confirmed.

Monday,
February 4th.

BRUNSKILL *against* ROBERTSON, Esquire.

Declaration against a sheriff for taking insufficient bail, &c., alleged a *capias* against *Frederick S.* by the name of *William S.*, and an arrest under it by defendant, and that *Frederick S.* was known as well by the name of *William*, as *Frederick*, whereof defendant had notice; and that, before the debt accrued, he had often admitted to plaintiff that he was known by the name of *William*, whereof defendant had notice at the time of the arrest. Plea, that, at the time of arrest, *Frederick S.* was not known, nor had defendant notice that he was known, as well by the name of *William* as *Frederick*; and that defendant arrested *Frederick S.* on the false information of plaintiff's agent, that he was the *William S.* described in the writ; and that *Frederick*, being so arrested, did not admit himself to be *William S.* &c. Verification.

CASE. The declaration stated that one *Frederick Studdy* (who was known as well by the name of *William* as *Frederick*, whereof defendant had notice, and who had, before the accruing of the debt to plaintiff thereafter mentioned, often admitted to plaintiff that he was known by the name of *William*, whereof defendant had notice at the time of the arrest) was indebted to plaintiff in the sum of 77*l.* in respect of certain causes of action; that plaintiff, for the recovery of the said debt, sued out a writ of *capias* against the

Held, that the averment, in the declaration, of the frequent admissions by *Frederick S.* was superfluous, and mere matter of evidence; that so much of the plea as denied that *Frederick S.* was known as well by one name as the other, and that defendant had notice thereof, was a complete answer, and ought to have concluded to the country; and that the rest of it was immaterial and redundant, and ground of special demurrer; but that the plea was good on general demurrer.

Quære, Whether the use of a wrong name, on a single occasion, by the party arrested, will support an allegation that he was known by that name?

said

said *Frederick* by the name of *William Studdy*, directing the sheriff of *Devon* to take *William S.* (meaning the said *Frederick S.*, who was then as aforesaid known as well by the name of *William as Frederick*); that the said writ was duly indorsed for bail, and delivered to defendant, then being the sheriff of *Devon*; that defendant arrested the said *Frederick* by virtue of the said writ, and detained him in custody, as such sheriff, at the suit of plaintiff; that, the said *Frederick* being so arrested and in custody, defendant, as such sheriff, took bail for his appearance, and took a void bail bond from the said *Frederick* and one *Albert S.*, being the brother of the said *Frederick* and, as defendant then well knew, a minor under the age of twenty-one, the said *Albert* being the sole surety of the said *Frederick*. Yet defendant, not regarding his duty &c., took the said bail bond as a bail bond good and binding in law, and treated the same as being good and binding; and thereupon afterwards, without the knowledge or consent of plaintiff, voluntarily suffered the said *Frederick* to escape out of his custody, the debt for which he was so arrested being still unpaid: that no deposit was made, nor special bail put in, by the said *Frederick*; and that defendant afterwards falsely returned upon the said writ that the said *William* (the said *Frederick* being, as defendant well knew, then known as well by the name of *William as Frederick*) was not found in his bailiwick, by means whereof, &c. Plea: that at the time of the arrest the said *Frederick* was not known, nor had defendant notice that the said *Frederick* was known, as well by the name of *William as Frederick*; and that defendant arrested the said *Frederick* on the false information of plaintiff's

1839.

BRUNSKILL
against
ROBERTSON.

1839.

BRUNSKILL
against
ROBERTSON.

agent in that behalf, that the said *Frederick* was the *William Studdy* described in the writ; and that the said *Frederick*, being so arrested, did not admit himself to be *William Studdy*, as in the declaration mentioned, but refused so to do, and executed the bail bond in his true name of *Frederick*: verification. Replication: that, after making the arrest, and before taking the bail bond, and while the said *Frederick* was in defendant's custody, defendant appealed to the said *Frederick*, and demanded of him to say whether he was not the person indebted to the plaintiff in the sum for which the said writ was issued, and the person meant by the plaintiff under the name of *William* in the said writ; that the said *Frederick* thereupon, and before taking the bond, assented thereto, and admitted to defendant that he was such person, and then promised and assured defendant that he would discharge the debt and costs, and save harmless the defendant; and thereupon defendant took the said bail bond and discharged the said *Frederick*: verification. Rejoinder: that the said *Frederick* did not admit that he was the *William* described in the writ; but, on the contrary, as soon as he knew that the person against whom the writ issued was therein described by the name of *William*, asserted, as the fact was, that he was named *Frederick*, and had never been called or known by the name of *William*, and disputed the validity of the arrest, and executed the bail bond in his true name of *Frederick*: verification. Surrejoinder: that the said *Frederick*, from the time of the arrest until his discharge, continually admitted he was such person as in the replication is mentioned: conclusion to the country.

Demurrer,

Demurrer, alleging for special cause that the surrejoinder takes issue on no fact alleged in the rejoinder; and, if it contains a confession and avoidance, ought to conclude with a verification.

1839.

BRUNSKILL
against
ROBERTSON.

W. H. Watson, for the defendant. The material question on the record is, whether *Studdy* was known as well by the name of *William* as by that of *Frederick*; whereas the allegations of the plaintiff, subsequent to the plea, only shew that he was the person meant to be arrested. *Cole v. Hindson* (a), *Shadgett v. Clipson* (b), *Scandover v. Warne* (c), *Finch v. Cocken* (d) are in point. If an officer were killed by the party misnamed, in the attempt to execute process under such circumstances, it would only be manslaughter; *Foster*, 2 *Disc. on Homicide*, p. 312. (2d ed.). Even where the party arrested by a wrong name has estopped himself, by some previous representation, from taking advantage of the misnomer, the sheriff is not bound to arrest or to detain, though he will be justified in doing so; and if he releases the party so arrested, no action lies for the escape; *Morgans v. Bridges* (e). The rule *Hil. 2 W. 4. s. 32. (g)* does not alter the law; it only provides that, where due diligence has been used to find out the real name, the party arrested by a wrong one shall not be discharged upon motion. This is for the benefit of the plaintiff in the suit, but will not legalise the arrest. As to the allegation respecting the bail bond, it is quite immaterial if the sheriff was not bound to arrest at all: and, as to the

(a) 6 T. R. 234.

(b) 8 East, 328.

(c) 2 Camp. 270.

(d) 2 C. M. & R. 196.

(e) 1 B. & Ald. 647.

(g) *Jervis's New Rules*, p. 67. (4th ed.).

1839. surrejoinder, it traverses no material statement in the rejoinder.

BRUNSKILL
against
ROBERTSON

Erle, for the plaintiff. The arrest by the defendant was legal and valid; and, if he was justified in arresting, and elected to do so, he is now liable for the escape. *Studdy*, having admitted himself to be the person named in the writ, was estopped from taking advantage of the misnomer. Such an admission upon a single occasion would not support the plaintiff's averment that the party was known as well by one name as the other; *Holroyd J. in Morgans v. Bridges (a)*: but it would operate as an estoppel; *Newton v. Maxwell (b)*, *Price v. Harwood (c)*. The latter case shews that an admission, made at the time of arrest, precludes the party arrested from availing himself of a misnomer. When he has once omitted to take advantage of the misnomer, the wrong name becomes the real one throughout the suit; *Crawford v. Satchwell (d)*. Here the defendant is stated in the declaration to have had notice of frequent admissions by *Studdy* that he was known by both names; and this is not denied by the defendant in his plea. The declaration and plea together contain all the material facts; the rest of the pleading is irrelevant and immaterial. The allegation in the declaration that *Studdy* had often admitted he was known by the name of *William*, and that the defendant knew of this, is alone enough to support the action for the escape; for the arrest was lawful under that state of things; and, although a sheriff may not be bound to arrest, yet, if he

(a) 1 B. & Ald. 652. See also *Mestaer v. Hertz*, 3 M. & S. 453.

(b) 2 C. & J. 215. (c) 3 Camp. 108. (d) 2 Stra. 1218.

exercises his discretion and actually does arrest, he is liable. The language of *Abbott J.* in *Morgans v. Bridges* (a) supports this view. "If the party complaining would make the sheriff liable, he should go further in his allegations and proofs; he should state and prove that he had a debt due from a party called by both names, and that he so told the sheriff at the time of the arrest. The sheriff might then perhaps be bound to detain him in custody, and might be liable for an escape." There is no distinguishing an estoppel by the defendant's executing a bond in a wrong name, and an estoppel by his once calling himself by that name. [*Cole-ridge J.* It is consistent with this record that *Studdy* entered into the contract, on which he was sued, in his right name. If the plaintiff had alleged that the contract was made in the name of *William*, the case would have been a stronger one.] It is alleged that he admitted his name to be *William* before the debt accrued. As to the effect of the misnomer in the event of resistance and death, if the arrest was lawful by reason of the estoppel, the consequence of resistance will be the same as in other cases of lawful arrest.

1839.

 BRUNSWILL
 against
 ROBERTSON.

W. H. Watson, in reply. The material issue taken on this record is the fact, that *Studdy* was known by both names; the rest of the plea is superfluous. [*Littledale J.* Then why not conclude it to the country?] That would have been a good objection on special demurrer. *Price v. Harwood* (b) only shews that the misrepresentation, by the party arrested, of his real name is a justification of the arrest if properly pleaded. It

(a) 1 B. & Ald. 652.

(b) 3 Camp. 108.

1839.

BRUNSKILL
against
ROBERTSON.

would at least be evidence upon the allegation that he was known as well by one name as the other. *Morgans v. Bridges (a)* is exactly in point. It would be absurd that a party should be estopped for ever from taking advantage of a misnomer, because he is alleged, by a third person, to have formerly admitted a wrong name.

Lord DENMAN C. J. The declaration is, in effect, for taking insufficient bail, and is in itself a good one. The plea is an answer to it. It alleges that *Studdy* was not, at the time of the arrest, known as well by the name of *William* as *Frederick*, and goes to make some superfluous statements, which, as they are chiefly in answer to improper statements in the declaration, are no just ground of complaint on the part of the plaintiff. The averment of the plaintiff in the declaration, that *Studdy* had often admitted to the plaintiff that he was known by the name of *William*, is not alone enough to support the declaration; it is only evidence of the fact. *Morgans v. Bridges (a)* is in favour of the defendant, and shews that he was not bound to arrest under circumstances which might have justified him in doing so if he chose to take his chance; and that, having arrested the party, he was not bound to detain him when informed of the misnomer. The facts of this case, supposing them to be truly alleged, would probably have justified the detention of *Studdy*; for I cannot think the opinion of Mr. Justice *Holroyd (b)* in that case quite correct, that using a name on one occasion only would not, as between the plaintiff and the sheriff, support an allegation that the party was known by that name. If the debt was

(a) 1 B. & Ald. 647.

(b) 1 B. & Ald. 652.

contracted by the original defendant in the wrong name, I think it would be properly left to a jury as evidence upon such an issue. I cannot accede to the doctrine contended for, that, if the sheriff, though not bound to arrest, exercises his option and actually arrests, he is then liable to all the consequences which attach to an arrest under ordinary circumstances. As to the conclusion of the plea with a verification, that objection is not open on general demurrer.

1839.

BRUNSKILL
against
ROBERTSON.

LITLEDALE J. The averment, that *Studdy* was known as well by one name as the other, whereof the defendant had notice, was enough to support the declaration; and the omission of it would have made it bad; for the alleged admission by *Studdy* is mere matter of evidence, and taking it even as evidence, it might have been made under circumstances that would entitle it to no weight. The plea, after denying this averment, should have concluded to the country, and would then have been a complete answer; instead of which, it goes on to allege matters quite immaterial, which neither deny, nor confess and avoid, any statement of the plaintiff, and which would have been ground of special demurrer. Throughout the rest of the pleadings, both parties go on pleading in parallel lines without coming to any issue, and without making any relevant allegation.

WILLIAMS J. The argument for the plaintiff relies entirely on the admissions alleged in the declaration to have been made by *Studdy*. These admissions are not in fact traversed by the plea; for the admission denied by the plea is an admission upon being arrested, which is not stated in the declaration. But the principal and

1839.

BRUNSKILL
against
ROBERTSON.

material averment in the declaration is answered; the rest is redundant. The sheriff was not bound to arrest; and, if it be granted that he was justified in the arrest at first, he was not bound to detain on receiving better information.

COLERIDGE J. The only substantial inquiry is, whether the declaration be good? and, if it is, whether the plea be so? It is contended that there are two good causes of action disclosed in the declaration, and that only one is answered. But the second part of the averment in the declaration, which states the frequent admissions by *Studdy*, would not alone support the action; and this is the only part unanswered by the plea. It is in truth a statement of evidence in affirmance of the first part, and which might perhaps have been admissible, in proof of it, and so have justified the arrest. Nor does the admission appear to have been at all connected with the contract, so as to have the effect of an estoppel. The sheriff may arrest, or not, in his discretion; and the option continues after the arrest, so that he may discharge the party on being better informed of the facts.

S.

Judgment for the defendant (a).

(a) See *Reeves v. Slater*, 7 B. & C. 486., in which the distinction between a misnomer in mesne and final process was adverted to, and the sheriff was held bound to execute a *fi. fa.* upon the goods of a defendant misnamed in it, where the defendant himself was estopped by the judgment from objecting to the misnomer.

1839.

IBBS *against* RICHARDSON and Others.Monday,
February 4th.

DEBT for the use and occupation by the defendants of certain premises of the plaintiff for one year.

Plea; nunquam indebitatus: issue thereon. By consent of the parties, and by a Judge's order, the following case was stated for the opinion of this Court.

On the 3d of *December* 1827 the plaintiff, by writing under seal, demised to *Anna Maria Hughes*, her executors, &c., the premises mentioned in the declaration, for eight years beginning from the 11th of *October* then last past, at the yearly rent of 20*l*.

From and after the execution of this instrument, *A. M. Hughes* continued in the possession and occupation of the premises upon the terms therein mentioned, until her death in the beginning of *February* 1829. Defendants were the executors of *Hughes*, and had proved her will and acted in the execution thereof. After the death of *A. M. Hughes*, defendants, as such executors, proposed to plaintiff to surrender the premises to him, but plaintiff refused to accept such surrender; whereupon defendants underlet the premises to *Robert Craik* from year to year, subject to the determination of their own interest therein as executors, at the same yearly rent of 20*l*.; and *Craik* entered into the possession of the said premises as their undertenant, and continued in the occupation until 14th *December* 1835, under the following circumstances. The original rent was duly paid to plaintiff by defendants up to the 11th day of *October* 1835. On that day defendants, being desirous of delivering up

possession

Lessee for a term ending on 11th *October* underlet to *C.* from year to year, subject to the determination of his own interest. Upon the expiration of the term, *C.* refused to quit, and held over against the will of the lessee. On 16th *October* the lessee distrained on him for rent due before the 11th. On 14th *December* *C.* quitted; and the lessee then tendered possession to the original landlord, who refused to accept it. Held, that the lessee was liable, in an action for use and occupation, to pay rent to his landlord for the period between the 11th *October* and 14th *December*, but not for any longer period.

1839.

**1835
against
RICHARDSON.**

possession of the premises to plaintiff, demanded possession from their undertenant, *Craik*, who refused to quit, and continued, against defendants' will, to occupy them. On the 16th of the same *October*, 10*l.* rent being in arrear from *Craik* to defendants, they distrained upon his goods, and continued in possession thereof upon the premises in question until the 22d of the same month. After, as well as during the continuance of, this distress, defendants endeavoured to induce *Craik* to quit the premises; and on the 14th of *December* following he did quit. No rent or compensation of any kind was received by defendants for the period between the 11th of *October* and the 14th of *December* 1835. Plaintiff was aware of all the above circumstances; but no direct communication took place between him and defendants until the said 14th of *December*. On that day, the key of the house and possession of all the premises were offered by defendants to plaintiff. Plaintiff however refused the key, unless defendants would pay him a quarter's rent, but stated that, if defendants would then pay a quarter's rent, he would accept the key, and release defendants from all liability. Defendants refused to make such payment; and the key remained in their possession, and the premises were in fact unoccupied, from that time to the 11th of *October* 1836. Power was given to the Court to draw inferences of fact from the case stated; and if the Court should be of opinion, under the above circumstances, that the plaintiff was entitled to recover any sum of money in this action, defendants were to confess judgment, and judgment was thereupon to be entered up for such sum as the Court should think plaintiff entitled to recover, with costs, &c.

Biggs

Biggs Andrews, for the plaintiff. The plaintiff is entitled to recover rent, if not for one year, at least for the period during which the undertenant wrongfully held over. The tenant's responsibility does not cease until redelivery of the premises to the lessor; and the exertions of the former to expel the undertenant cannot affect the plaintiff's rights. As long as the undertenant occupied, the defendants were also in sufficient occupation for the purposes of this action; *Bull v. Sibbs (a)*, *Matthews v. Sawell (b)*. Actual occupation is not necessary; *Pinero v. Judson (c)*. *Harding v. Crethorn (d)* is in point, and shews that nothing but redelivery of the premises, or acceptance of another tenant by the lessor, will release the lessee. Here the plaintiff expressly refused to accept the key of the premises; and the defendants, by distraining after the determination of their own interest, acted as owners of the property under stat. 8 *Anne*, c. 14. s. 6., which gives the landlord power to distrain after the end of the tenant's term, provided such distress be made "during the continuance of the landlord's title or interest."

Platt, contra. It is not denied that the holding by an undertenant, with the assent of the lessee, will make the latter liable; but the defendants are not to be made tenants against their will. The declaration in this form of action always alleges a holding at the instance and request of the defendant. Here there is no ground for saying that any part of the occupation after the 11th of *October* was voluntary on the part of the defendants. The declaration also alleges occupation by the permis-

1839.

Issued
against
RICHARDSON.

(a) 8 *T. R.* 327.(b) 8 *Taunt.* 270.(c) 6 *Bing.* 206.(d) 1 *Esp.* 57.

1839.

—
 LESSEES
 against
 RICHARDSON.

sion of the plaintiff; if, therefore, the occupation of the undertenant is that upon which the plaintiff relies, then the undertenant occupied with the plaintiff's assent, and so the defendants are discharged by the acceptance of another tenant, as in *Harding v. Crethorn (a)*. By offering to surrender and endeavouring to remove the undertenant, the lessees have done all that lies in their power to relieve themselves from the relation of landlord and tenant; and the plaintiff must complete his possession by bringing ejectment and suing *Craik* for the mesne profits. But it would be absurd to hold the defendants liable for mesne profits which they never received nor desired to receive. As to the distress by them, they had no reversion, and therefore no right to distrain. They were mere trespassers, and might be sued as such; or the plaintiff might, perhaps, sue them for not redelivering, if the dictum of Lord *Kenyon* in *Harding v. Crethorn (a)* be good law.

B. Andrews, in reply. The doctrine of Lord *Kenyon* is decisive, and has not been answered. Until the lessee surrenders the premises, so as to enable the lessor to take possession, he continues to hold them, and to be liable for rent in respect of such holding.

LORD DENMAN C. J. The plaintiff is entitled to recover. If the defendants, after the expiration of their lease, had let the premises anew to *Craik*, the case would have been a very clear one. Here they distrained, as upon a continuance of their own interest, and did not offer to deliver up the key, or the possession,

(a) 1 *Esp.* 57.

until the 14th of *December*. When *Craik* held over, there was a sufficient reversion, as between them and *Craik*, to enable them to distrain if they pleased. The defendants, however, are only bound to pay rent up to the 14th of *December*, when the undertenant had quitted and possession was tendered to the plaintiff.

1839.

LEES
against
RICHARDSON.

LITTLEDALE J. No doubt the ordinary course under these circumstances would be to bring ejectment; but the plaintiff may waive the tort, and sue for use and occupation; or he might have maintained an action for not delivering up possession. After a recovery in ejectment, he might have recovered mesne profits until the day when the possession was tendered to him; so here he may recover rent for that period. *Craik's* possession, being obtained by and through the defendants, is to be taken as their possession. If the original tenancy had been from year to year, the defendants would have been liable for a whole year's rent. Here, the holding over being a wrongful one after the expiration of a term, the plaintiff is entitled to recover only for the period during which he was kept out of possession.

WILLIAMS and COLERIDGE Js. concurred.

S.

Judgment for the plaintiff for the recovery of 5*l*.

1839.

Monday,
February 4th.

BROOKS *against* STUART.

Assumpait by indorsees against the maker of a promissory note. Plea, that the promise was a joint and several one by defendant and *A.*, to whom one of the plaintiffs executed a release under seal. Replication, that the release was executed at the request of defendant, who afterwards, and while the note was unpaid, in consideration of such release, ratified his promise, and promised to remain liable to plaintiffs for the amount of the note. Held bad, because it set up a parol exception to a release under seal.

To the same plea, pleaded to the common money counts, a replication traversing both the joint and several promise, and also the release, was admitted to be bad on special demurrer.

ASSUMPSIT by the public officer of a banking company (under 7 G. 4. c. 46. s. 9.) as indorsees of a promissory note made by the defendant. Money counts.

Plea; that one *Watson*, before and at the time &c., was a partner in the said company, and, as such, jointly interested with the other partners in the company in the said causes of action; and that the promises mentioned in the declaration were made jointly and severally by defendant and one *Agar*: and that, after the making of the said promises, *Watson* by indenture released to *Agar* the said causes of action, and thereby also released defendant from the same. Verification.

Replication to the plea, so far as it related to the first count, that *Watson* executed the release at the request, and by and with the privity and concurrence, of defendant, for the purpose of releasing *Agar* from payment of the said promissory note, and from the cause of action of the company thereupon against *Agar*; and that thereupon afterwards, the note being still unpaid, in consideration of the premises and that *Watson* had, at defendant's request, so released the said *Agar*, defendant ratified and confirmed the promise in the first count mentioned, and promised the company that he would be, and remain, liable to them for the amount of the note, as if the indenture had not been made. Verification.

Replication to the plea, so far as it related to the promises in the other counts, that those promises were
not

not made jointly and severally by defendant and *Agar*, as therein mentioned; nor did *Watson* release the said last mentioned causes of action. Conclusion to the country.

Demurrer to the first replication, assigning for special causes that it was a departure; that it was double; and that the matter, if pleadable at all, should have been pleaded by way of estoppel.

Demurrer to the second replication, assigning for special causes that it was double; that it put in issue too many averments; that it amounted to a general replication *de injuriâ*, &c.

Martin, for the defendant. The banking company, though enabled to sue by their officer, are not a corporation; but their rights and liabilities remain as before, just as if the individuals who composed it were the plaintiffs on the record; *Hall v. Franklin* (a). The release is therefore an answer. A release by one of several plaintiffs is a bar as to all; *Ruddock's Case* (b). So a release to one of several, who are jointly and severally bound, is a release to all; note (1) to *Fowell v. Forrest* (c). The plea is therefore good. Then, as to the replications, the first either founds itself on the subsequent ratification as preventing the effect of the release, in which case *Cocks v. Nash* (d) is an authority in point against the plaintiff; or else it sets up the subsequent promise as a new ground of action, in which case it is a clear departure. Such a promise, founded on a consideration properly alleged, might perhaps be a good independent cause of action; but even this is doubtful; for in *Hannan v. Roll* (e),

(a) 3 M. & W. 259.

(b) 6 Rep. 25. a.

(c) 2 Wms. Saund. 48.

(d) 9 Bing. 341.

(e) Note (1) to *Butler's Co. Lit.* 232 a., from Lord *Nottingham's MS.*

1839.

BROOKS
against
STUART.

1839.

 BROOKS
 against
 STUART.

it was held that one whose co-obligor had been released by the obligee could not be sued on a new promise in consideration of forbearance (a). As to the second replication, it traverses two distinct facts alleged in the plea, viz. the joint promise and the release, either of which may be denied, but not both. The law on this point is discussed in *Selby v. Bardons* (b), which shews that such multifarious traverse is bad, except in cases where the replication *de injuriâ absque tali* &c. is applicable.

R. V. Richards, contra, admitted that the second replication could not be sustained. As to the first; the facts disclosed exclude the operation of the release. The cases of the Statute of Limitations, infancy, and bankruptcy are analogous. The subsequent promise, which takes a case out of the statute, is not a substantive cause of action; it only defeats the operation of the statute. The replication to a plea of infancy, stating a ratification after full age, is not the statement of a new cause of action, but a revival of the original one. So, in the case of bankruptcy, a subsequent promise excludes the effect of the certificate. The intent of the parties is to be considered; and, when the release of one is accompanied by a contemporary agreement that the other shall continue liable, the legal operation of the release is confined, and the party is remitted to his action on the original contract. The reasoning of the Court in *Irving v. Veitch* (c) supports the plaintiff in suing on the original rather than any substituted contract. The matter

(a) See S. C. nom. *Hammon v. Roll*, March. New Ca. 202. (2d ed.).

(b) 3 B. & Ad. 2. See *Parke J. Ibid.* 10.

(c) 3 M. & W. 90. 105.

pleaded does not depart from, but confirms and fortifies, the declaration (a).

1839.

BROOKS
against
STUART.

Martin, in reply, was stopped by the Court.

LORD DENMAN C. J. The replication is bad. It sets up a parol exception to an instrument under seal.

LITLEDALE, WILLIAMS, and COLERIDGE Js. concurred.

S. Judgment for the defendant.

(a) *Com. Dig. Pleader*, F. 11.

LAPIERRE *against* M'INTOSH.

Tuesday,
February 5th.

TRESPASS for breaking and entering plaintiff's dwelling house, and expelling him.

Plea 1. Not Guilty. 2. That, before plaintiff had any thing in the said dwelling-house, defendant was seised in his demesne as of fee of and in the same; and that plaintiff, at the time of making the agreement thereafter mentioned, was a stranger artificer and handicraftsman, to wit, a boot and shoemaker, born out of the obeisance of the King of this realm, to wit in the kingdom of *France*, and not a denizen or naturalised: that before the said time when &c., by an agreement in writing made between plaintiff and defendant, and signed by them, it

Trespass for entering plaintiff's house and expelling him. Plea, that plaintiff was an alien artificer; that defendant unlawfully agreed to grant, and plaintiff to take, a lease of the house for 21 years; that plaintiff took possession on the faith and terms of such agreement, and with the view and intent to carry the same into execution,

and not otherwise; therefore defendant entered &c., the door being open and no person therein of whom he could demand possession.

Held, that the plea was good, as shewing either a lease void by stat. 32 Hen. 8. c. 16.; or possession in pursuance of an illegal agreement for such a lease; and that in either case the plaintiff could not maintain the action.

1839.

LAPIERRE
against
M'INTOSH.

was, wilfully and contrary to the statute in such case made and provided, agreed by and between plaintiff and defendant as follows; that is to say; defendant agreed to let the said dwelling house to plaintiff, and to grant a good and valid lease thereof for the term of twenty-one years to plaintiff, at the clear yearly rent of 70% payable quarterly, to commence from *Michaelmas* then next, the said lease to contain usual and proper covenants, especially to paint, pay rates, taxes, &c.: that plaintiff thereby agreed to take the house and to accept the said lease at the said rent &c., and to execute a counterpart thereof; the said lease to be determinable at the expiration of the first seven or fourteen years on the plaintiff giving six months' notice thereof in writing: that thereupon, and before the said time when &c., defendant, at plaintiff's request, delivered to plaintiff possession of the said house, and plaintiff then took and continued in possession thereof on the faith and terms of the said agreement, and with the view and intention that the same should be carried into execution and the lease granted as aforesaid, and not otherwise; whereupon defendant at the said time when &c., entered into the said house, the outer door thereof being open, and no person being therein of whom defendant could demand possession as he intended to do, and otherwise would have done, and committed the several trespasses &c. Verification.

Demurrer, assigning for special causes that the instrument was an agreement and not a lease; that no permanent estate or interest passed to plaintiff; and that plaintiff was only tenant at sufferance, or from year to year.

C. C. Jones,

C. C. Jones, for the plaintiff. The question is whether this is a lease to a stranger artificer and handicraftsman, and therefore void by stat. 32 *Hen.* 8. c. 16. s. 13. It is an agreement only, and no lease. The words of agreement to grant, and to accept, a lease do not make a present demise; and, although possession was in fact given, there was no agreement to do so. All the cases are collected in *Doe dem. Pearson v. Ries* (a) and *Staniforth v. Fox* (b). Unless there be a lease within the statute, the interest of the plaintiff under the agreement is not avoided (c).

1839.

LAFITTE
against
M'INTOSH.

Chandless, contra. This is a lease, and therefore void. [Lord *Denman* C. J. If so, why did you not plead it as such, instead of treating it as a mere executory agreement?] The Court will put the proper construction on the instrument. If it be only an agreement, then, without reference to the statute, the plaintiff, being let into possession by the defendant, was tenant at will to him, and the tenancy was determined by the entry of the defendant. Entry, in the absence of the tenant, is enough for this purpose: *Co. Lit.* 55 b. Even a wrongful entry, without the consent of the tenant, is a determination of the will: *Com. Dig. Estates*, (H. 7.). [*Littledale* J. There was no demand of possession.] It is stated that there was no one on the premises of whom possession could be demanded; otherwise the defendant would have done so. A person, let into possession under an executory agreement, may be ejected by the landlord without notice, where there

(a) 8 *Bing.* 178.(b) 7 *Bing.* 590.(c) See note (1.) to *Jevens v. Harridge*, 1 *Wms. Saund.* 8., and *Co. Lit.* 2 b.

1839. is no stipulation to the contrary, and no payment of rent: *Hegan v. Johnson (a)*.

LAFINER
against
M'INTOSH.

C. C. Jones, in reply. The plaintiff, who took possession under an arrangement collateral to the agreement for a future lease, had a sufficient interest to maintain trespass for an entry merely wrongful, whether it determined the will or not.

LORD DENMAN C. J. Whether this agreement be a lease within the stat. 32 *H. 8. c. 16.*, or whether the entry be sufficient to determine a tenancy at will, may be doubtful; but, at all events, the plaintiff does not appear to have any interest which the law can recognise, and he can therefore maintain no action.

LITLEDALE J. Either the interest of the plaintiff was by lease, and consequently void by the statute; or it was a tenancy at will created in furtherance of an unlawful agreement, which the defendant may at any time put an end to by entry.

WILLIAMS J. The plea is good on the ground that the plaintiff's possession, if not under a lease, was under an agreement for one in violation of the statute. Such being the case, it was competent for the defendant to enter and expel the plaintiff.

COLERIDGE J. The plea states an agreement which was equally illegal, whether it amounted to a lease or was only an agreement for one. The possession is stated

(a) 2 *Taunt.* 148.

to have been delivered to the plaintiff and taken by him "on the faith and terms of the agreement, and with the view and intention that the same should be carried into execution." Under such circumstances the plaintiff cannot maintain an action for the re-entry by the defendant.

S.

Judgment for the defendant.

1839.

LAPIERRE
against
M'INTOSH.

WEEDING *against* ALDRICH.

1838 496.

Wednesday,
February 6th.

TROVER for two reclaimed deer, and two other deer.

Plea 1. Except as to one deer, Not Guilty. 2. Except as before, actionem non, because &c. that the plaintiff was not possessed. 3. As to the conversion of one of the deer, that defendant was possessed of a certain close, and, because the said deer before and at the time when &c. was wrongfully on the said close doing damage there, defendant seized and took the said deer in the said close, so damage feasant, as a distress for the damage so done and doing by the said deer as aforesaid; which said seizing and taking is the same conversion whereof &c.: verification. This last plea had no commencement with actionem non, nor any prayer of judgment. Demurrer to the third plea, assigning for special causes (amongst others) that it amounted to the general issue; that it was an argumentative denial of an unlawful conversion, and of the plaintiff's possession of the deer at the time of commencing the action;

mentative denial of plaintiff's possession; and that it was unnecessary to allege how defendant disposed of the distress.

Semble, that if the conversion, relied on by the plaintiff, was not the seizure, but a subsequent abuse of the distress, he must shew it in reply to the plea.

Trover for several deer.
Plea, as to the conversion of one deer, that it was wrongfully on defendant's close doing damage; wherefore defendant seized it as a distress; which seizing is the same conversion &c.
Held, on special demurrer, that the plea was good without the formal commencement of actionem non, or prayer of judgment:

Held also (*Littledale J. dubitante*), that it sufficiently confessed a conversion in fact, and was not bad as amounting to the plea of not guilty, or as an argu-

1839.

WREEDING
against
ALDRICH.

that the plea did not shew how the distress was disposed of; and that, though it was pleaded to part, there was neither actionem non, nor prayer of judgment. Joinder.

Gunning, for the plaintiff. The commencement by actionem non, and the conclusion by a prayer of judgment, are necessary where the plea is not in bar of the whole action. *Reg. Gen. Hil. 4 W. 4. (General Rules and Regulations, 9. (a))*. The plea is pleaded only as to one of the deer. The defendant has inserted the formal commencement in his second plea, but has omitted it in the third. [*Byles*, contra, in answer to a question by the Court. The Court of Exchequer have expressed an opinion that the new Rule only requires the form of "actionem non" to be adopted where the plea is in bar, not of the whole action, but of the further maintenance of it; *Putney v. Swann* (b); and there are other unreported cases to the same effect in that Court. This construction is reasonable, for, in the latter case, the judgment is different.] In *Putney v. Swann* (b) and in *Bird v. Higginson* (c) the plea was to the whole of one count. But the plea is also bad as amounting, either to the general issue, or to a plea of not possessed. It admits no conversion, but denies it indirectly. The plea would have been bad before the New Rules; *Hartford v. Jones* (d); and is equally so since. The facts pleaded shew that the defendant has not converted the deer, but taken it in pursuance of a legal right; if so, not guilty is still the proper plea. *Owen v. Knight* (e) shews that a lien is proper

(a) 5 B. & Ad. v.

(b) 2 M. & W. 72.

(c) 2 A. & E. 696.

(d) 3 Salk. 366. S. C. 1 Ld. Ray. 393.

(e) 4 New Ca. 54.

evidence on a plea that plaintiff was not possessed &c.; and *Scarfe v. Morgan* (a) seems to shew that it is admissible, either on a plea of not guilty, or a plea denying the property. *Samuel v. Duke* (b) may perhaps be cited to shew that facts, justifying a seizure of goods under an execution, should be specially pleaded: but the decision on that point was not necessary; for the question arose on a rule to enter a nonsuit upon a point of evidence, and no point respecting the form of pleading had been reserved. [*Coleridge J.* Not guilty only denies a conversion in fact.] Here no conversion at all is admitted. [*Lord Denman C. J.* The plea shews a seizure, and the exercise of a control over the property exclusively of the plaintiff. Is not this a conversion?] The plea should have gone on to allege that the defendant dealt with the cattle distrained in the manner required by law. The precedents always state an impounding. The right of seizure is given only for certain purposes, and on certain conditions; and the plea should state a compliance with them, and bring the defendant strictly within the limits prescribed by law. For the same reason a plea, justifying the removal of goods incumbering the defendant's close, always alleges that the defendant carried them to a convenient distance, and there left them for the use of the plaintiff. Either the plea does, or does not, confess a conversion. If it does not, it amounts to the general issue; if it does, then it ought to shew a compliance with every thing necessary to justify the defendant under the authority of law.

1839.

WEEDING
against
ALDRICH.

(a) 4 M. & W. 270.

(b) 3 M. & W. 622.

1839.

WEEDING
against
ALDRICH.

Byles, *contra*. It is true that, before the late rules, there was no special plea necessary in trover except a release; but the new pleading rules require that "all matters in confession and avoidance shall be pleaded specially" (a). The general issue only puts the plaintiff on proof of a conversion in fact; *Stancliffe v. Hardwick* (b); the seizure by the defendant is such a conversion; the plea, therefore, admits a conversion, and then alleges enough to justify it. *Samuel v. Duke* (c) shews that a special plea was not only admissible, but necessary. It is however enough to support the plea, if the defence be of such a nature that it *may* be pleaded specially; as where it consists of matter of law; *Com. Dig. Pleader* (E. 14.), &c. Then, as to the sufficiency of the allegations in the plea, it is true that, if this had been an action of trespass stating, not only a seizure, but a removal, a plea, confined to a justification of the seizure alone, would not have been sufficient; but, in trover, the plea need only justify an act amounting to a conversion. Here the taking is itself a conversion; *Bull. N. P.* 44.; and was considered to be so in *M'Combie v. Davies* (d), and *Stancliffe v. Hardwick* (e); and the defendant is not bound to go further and justify an impounding, when the plaintiff does not expressly complain of one, and where the defendant was under no obligation to impound at all. The common form of avowry for damage feasant is almost in the words of this plea, and is an authority to shew that,

(a) *Reg. Gen. Hil. 4 W. 4. Pleadings in Particular Actions*, IV. 2., 5 B. & Ad. ix.

(b) 2 C. M. & R. 1. S. C. 5 Tyr. 551.

(c) 3 M. & W. 622.

(d) 6 East, 540. per Lord Ellenborough.

(e) 2 C. M. & R. 11.; 5 Tyr. 563.

when

when the plaintiff complains of an unlawful taking, the defendant is not bound to do more than justify the taking. [*Littledale J.* In trespass de bonis asportatis the declaration usually alleges a conversion, but the defendant need not specifically justify it. If the plaintiff relies on it, he must reply, or new assign.]

1839.

WEEDING
against
ALDRICH.

Gunning, in reply. There could be no new assignment of a conversion here, for it is the gist of the action, and is already alleged and relied upon by the plaintiff in his declaration.

LORD DENMAN C. J. With regard to the omission of the form *actionem non*, I accede to the decision of the Court of Exchequer, and consider that form unnecessary. On the other points, the words of the new rules are conclusive to shew that this is a defence which must be specially pleaded. The defendant admits a conversion: he deprives the plaintiff of the possession and use of his property, and, pro tanto, converts it to his own use. This is agreeable to the doctrine of Lord *Holt*, cited by the Court in *McCombie v. Davies* (a). It is therefore incumbent on the defendant to shew that he had a right to do so. This is done in the plea, in which he states a seizure as a distress for damage done to his close. The defendant alleges all that is necessary to justify the injury complained of by the plaintiff, viz. a conversion; and there was no more necessity for carrying his defence further than there is in an avowry to a declaration in *replevin*. If there was any misuser of the cattle dis-

(a) 6 East, 540. per Lord *Ellenborough*.

trained,

1839.

WREDDING
against
ALDRIDGE.

trained, the plaintiff might have newly assigned, or replied, according to circumstances.

LITLEDALE J. I concur on the first point; but I entertain some doubts whether the plea is good in other respects. I doubt whether a seizure, under the circumstances stated in the plea, can be said to be a conversion. If the taking by the defendant had been with intent to sell, or to kill, or to use the property as his own, it would have been a conversion; but it is not clear that a mere taking is necessarily a conversion. If the plaintiff had brought trespass de bonis &c. the plea need not have justified a conversion; but the plaintiff, if he relied on a subsequent conversion by misuser or otherwise, must have put in a replication in the nature of a new assignment (*a*); and so in other cases of legal seizure, where a subsequent conversion, or other irregularity, makes it a trespass ab initio. These cases seem to shew that the mere taking as a distress is not necessarily a conversion. Where the declaration is founded on a conversion, as in trover, it is difficult to see how the plaintiff can reply or new assign a subsequent one of the same property.

COLERIDGE J. (*b*) I agree on the first point. Taking this plea and the others together, they go to the whole action. On the other points, ever since the case of *Stancliffe v. Hardwick* (*c*) it has been held that the plea of not guilty puts in issue the conversion in fact only,

(*a*) See *Gargrave v. Smith*, 1 Salk. 221.; *Bull N. P.* 81.; and the pleadings in *Catlin v. Milner*, 2 Lutw. 1421.

(*b*) *Williams J.* was absent. (*c*) 2 C. M. & R. 1. S. C. 5 Tyr. 551.

and

and not the legality of the conversion. That plea, therefore, would not have been sufficient, if the defendant intended to admit, and to justify, such conversion. Then has the plaintiff sufficiently confessed and avoided it? Perhaps, if the plea had only confessed the taking damage feasant, the allegation might not have amounted to a statement of conversion; but the seizure "as a distress" shews the intention and object of the defendant, and gives to the act the character of a conversion. It is objected, that the alleged conversion is not sufficiently avoided without shewing that the distress was properly dealt with after the seizure; but if there was any subsequent misconduct of the defendant that made the proceeding illegal *ab initio*, I do not see any difficulty in pleading it by way of new assignment, or otherwise. It would, perhaps, be a repetition of the matter complained of in the declaration; but all matters newly assigned are supposed to be already included in it.

S. Judgment for the defendant (a).

(a) In *Upward v. Knight*, three days after the decision of the above case, the court of Common Pleas ruled that a plea as to parcel of a sum demanded in an action required a formal commencement and conclusion; 5 *New Ca.* 338.

It seems that, before the late rules of pleading, a plea similar to the above would have been bad for not confessing a conversion, and, therefore, as equivalent to the general issue, *Agar v. Lisle*, *Brownl.* 5.; *S. C. Hutton*, 10.; *Hob.* 187. 5th ed. See also *Mires v. Solebay*, 2 *Mod.* 244.; *Cuckson v. Winter*, 2 *Man. & Ry.* 313.

1839.

WREEDING
against
ALDRICH.

1899.

Wednesday,
February 6th.

STORR *against* LEE and Wife.

Discharge of the wife under the Insolvent Debtors' Act 7 G. 4. c. 57. before marriage is a bar to an action against husband and wife in respect of one of the scheduled debts.

Semble, that where a discharged female insolvent acquires property and marries, whereby the property vests in her husband the statute affords no remedy by which it can be made available to her former creditors.

DEBT for goods sold to defendant's wife before her marriage. Plea, that the wife was discharged from the debt under the act for the Relief of Insolvent Debtors (7 G. 4. c. 57.), while sole and unmarried. General demurrer and joinder.

E. V. Williams, for the plaintiff. If this plea is a bar, there will be no remedy for the creditor of a discharged insolvent who marries, whatever amount of property she may have acquired after her discharge. No execution can be taken out on the judgment entered up against her upon the warrant of attorney given by her under sect. 57, because, after marriage, she can have no "ability to pay" within that section. Sects. 58 and 59 are equally inoperative; for she cannot assign or transfer any bills, notes, or other property; and the interest of the husband in all her property will prevent any order from being made under either of those sections. Whether the after-acquired property became vested in the insolvent before or after marriage, is immaterial; in either case, the act provides no means of making it available after she has escaped from her liability by marriage. If, therefore, the act provides no remedy, the ordinary remedy at common law must attach against the husband and wife, as it cannot be supposed that the legislature intended to release the debt altogether. The wife's debt, mentioned in her schedule, is discharged on the condition only of her giving an available security against her future property.

If

If it becomes a nullity by her marriage, the consideration for her discharge fails, and payment of the debt may be enforced by action. The plea given by the statute, sect. 61, is given only to the person discharged, "and his or her heirs, executors, and administrators," and not to any other person. The husband has no such plea given to him. The wife should therefore plead it separately, if she is entitled to plead it at all; and then the plaintiff may enter a nolle prosequi as to her, and proceed against the husband; *Bovill v. Wood*(a). If the wife had become insolvent after marriage, and had been discharged under sect. 71 as to her separate property, the husband would have continued liable by the express provisions of that section; and if both had been sued for her debt, she must have pleaded separately. Then why should she not plead separately to this action? The wife's debt becomes so completely the debt of the husband that it is barred by, and proveable under, his bankruptcy; *Miles v. Williams*(b); and it is discharged by his insolvency; *Lockwood v. Salter*(c). There is nothing hard in holding him liable here, for he obtains this advantage, that, if the wife dies, his liability ceases, although he may keep all the property which came to him through her.

R. V. Richards. The effect of the marriage is to suspend the liability of the wife during coverture. And there is no particular hardship in the case; for a bonâ fide sale by her before marriage would have equally defeated the creditors. If she had acquired no property before marriage, it would be giving an advantage

(a) 2 M. & S. 23.

(b) 1 P. Will. 249.

(c) 5 B. & Ad. 303.

1839.

 STORR
 against
 LEE.

1839.

 STONE
 against
 LEE.

to the creditors to permit them to sue the husband, when the wife herself could not have been sued while sole. It is, in fact, a new attempt to revive the liability of a discharged insolvent by reason of marriage. As to the plea being given to the wife alone, this is, in point of law, a plea by her, although the rules of law require that the husband should be joined for conformity. If she cannot plead in this way, she can have no plea at all, and must lose the benefit of the statute. *Lockwood v. Salter (a)* was the converse of this case; and the plea was there allowed to the wife jointly with the husband, although it was there contended, as now, that the plea was given only to the husband.

E. V. Williams, in reply. The exemption of the wife is no reason that the husband should not be subject to the usual liability for her debts. There is nothing in the act to extinguish them. [*Coleridge J.* Does not an action lie against a husband only in respect of the cause of action against his wife?] The law is not so laid down: the rule is, that the husband is liable for the wife's debts. [*Littledale J.* That is only a loose way of laying down the same proposition.]

Lord DENMAN C. J. The plea is an answer to the action. The seventy-second section of the act was a provision introduced in consequence of the decision of this Court in *Ex parte Deacon (b)*. If it be desirable that liability should attach to the husband or wife under the circumstances of this case, the act must undergo still further amendment. The plea is given to the wife jointly

(a) 5 B. & Ad. 303.

(b) 5 B. & Ald. 759.

with her husband; and the only consequence is, that there may be some property which cannot be reached under the act.

1839.

Storr
against
Lxx.

LITLEDALE J. The case appears to be one not contemplated by the statute. With respect to the alleged hardship upon the creditor, it may be said, with equal justice, that a different construction of the act might operate with hardship on the husband.

COLERIDGE J. (a). The case has been ingeniously argued for the plaintiff; but there is no ground for the action. The effect of marriage upon property acquired after insolvency has probably been overlooked; and some inconvenience or injustice may possibly accrue; but we must look solely to the act of parliament. On complying with its provisions, the insolvent was clearly discharged from all further liability to an action in respect of previous debts; and there is nothing to revive the action against her, or her husband, on the event of marriage.

S.

Judgment for the defendant.

(a) *Williams J. was absent.*

The QUEEN *against* The Recorder of BATH.

(In the Matter of the BATH Borough Rate.)

JOSEPH ADDISON had obtained a rule in *Michaelmas* term last, calling upon the recorder of the city and borough of *Bath* to shew cause why a mandamus

Under stat. 5 &
6 W. 4. c. 76.
s. 92., the ap-
peal to quarter
sessions against
a borough rate

is given only in the case of unequal apportionments of the rate among the parishes subjected to it, or the total omission of parishes which ought to be so subjected; no appeal is given to persons aggrieved as individuals.

should

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The Recorder
of BATH.

should not issue, commanding him to enter continuances and hear the appeal of *W. P. Roberts* against a borough-rate made in and for the said borough on 14th *July* last.

At the *Bath* borough sessions in *July* 1838, *W. P. Roberts*, a rate payer in the parish of *Lyncombe and Widcombe*, in the city and borough of *Bath*, appealed against the rate, on the ground that it could be proved to be retrospective and excessive, a part of it being, as the appellant alleged, for the payment of a bygone debt. The appellant referred to stat. 7 *W. 4.* & 1 *Vict. c. 81.* The rate was for 6866*l.* 2*s.*, apportioned among the six parishes of *Bath*, of which *Lyncombe and Widcombe* was one. It was not contended that the rate was bad on the face of it, or improperly apportioned. The necessary notices were proved on the part of the appellant. The appeal, having been respited, came on for hearing at the *Bath October* sessions, 1838, when the recorder held that he had no jurisdiction, and declined to hear the appeal. The deponent now swore to the truth of the above facts, and that he was aggrieved by the rate. In *Michaelmas* term last (*a*),

Sir *W. W. Follett* and *Hodges* shewed cause. First, the rate itself is not objectionable on the ground assigned. (On this point, they referred to stat. 7 *W. 4.* & 1 *Vict. c. 78. s. 44.*, *Rex v. Sillifant (b)*, *Rex v. The Justices of Flintshire (c)*, *Rex v. The Mayor &c. of Gloucester (d)*, stat. 17 *G. 2. c. 38. s. 4.*, *The Attorney-General v. The Corporation of Poole (e)*, and *Woods v. Reed (g)*; but the Court gave no decision.)

(*a*) November 24th. Before Lord Denman C. J., Patteson and Williams J.

(*b*) 4 *A. & E.* 354.

(*c*) 5 *B. & Ald.* 761.

(*d*) 5 *T. R.* 346.

(*e*) 2 *Keen*, 190. See p. 196.

(*g*) 2 *Mcc. & W.* 777.

Secondly,

Secondly, supposing the rate objectionable on the ground assigned, still the recorder had no jurisdiction. His power is under stat. 5 & 6 W. 4. c. 76. s. 92., which, after giving the council power to order the making of a borough rate in the nature of a county rate, enacts that "if any person shall think himself aggrieved by any such rate it shall be lawful for him to appeal to the recorder hereinafter mentioned at the next quarter sessions for the borough in which such rate has been made, or in case there shall be no recorder within such borough, to the justices at the next court of quarter sessions for the county within which such borough is situate or whereunto it is adjacent; and such recorder or justices respectively shall have power to hear and determine the same, and to award relief in the premises, as in the case of an appeal against any county rate." Now the case of an appeal against a county rate would be determined by stat. 55 G. 3. c. 51. s. 14., which enacts "that if the churchwarden or churchwardens, overseer or overseers of the poor, or other inhabitant or inhabitants of any parish, township or place, whether parochial or otherwise, where there is no churchwarden or overseer, or person appointed to act as such, shall at any time have reason to think that such parish, township or place, is aggrieved by any rate now existing or hereafter to be made, either in pursuance of this act or of any act or acts now in force, whether it be on account of the proportions assessed upon the respective parishes, townships or places being unequal, or on account of some one or more of them being without sufficient cause omitted altogether from the rate, or on account of such parish, township or place being rated at a higher proportion of

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The Recorder
of BATH.

1839.

—
The QUEEN
against
The Recorder
of BATH.

the pound sterling according to the fair annual value of the rateable property therein, or on account of some other parish or parishes, township or townships, place or places being rated at a lower proportion of the pound sterling according to the fair annual value of the rateable property therein, than has been fixed and declared by the justices of the peace of the said county in sessions assembled, as the basis of the rate of the said county, or on account of any other just cause of complaint whatsoever; it shall be lawful for such churchwarden" &c., "or other inhabitant or inhabitants where there is no churchwarden or overseer, or person appointed to act as such, to appeal to the justices of the peace for the county, at any general or quarter sessions, against such part of the rate only as may affect the parish or parishes, township or townships, place or places, which are unequally rated, or which shall appear to be over-rated or underrated, or omitted altogether from the rate; and the said justices are hereby empowered to hear and finally determine the same, and either to confirm such parts of the rate as have been appealed against, or to correct such inequalities, disproportions or omissions, as shall be proved to exist therein, in such manner as to them the said justices shall appear fair, just and equitable." Under this statute, the grievances in respect of which an appeal is given are such only as affect a whole parish in its relation to other parishes, that is, such as involve questions respecting the proper distribution of the rate; *Rex v. The Justices of Westmoreland (a)*. The question arose in *Rex v. Bond (b)*; but that case was ultimately decided on another ground. [Lord Denman C. J. There

(a) 10 B. & C. 226.

(b) 6 A. & E. 905.

the notice did not shew that the appellant was aggrieved: here the notices were correct, as is admitted.] The nature of the grievance is not within the statutes. It is true, as was suggested by Coleridge J. in *Rex v. Bond* (a), that there may be boroughs containing only one parish: but in that case the statutes give no appeal; and this may have been intended. Stat. 5 & 6 W. 4. c. 76. s. 92. gives indeed the remedy to "any person" who "shall think himself aggrieved" by the borough rate; but that must, as in cases under stat. 55 G. 3. c. 51. s. 14., be construed with reference to the nature of the grievance. If a township which had no parish officer were unequally assessed, then any inhabitant might appeal, as representative of the parish, and aggrieved in that character. The word "overseers," in stat. 5 & 6 W. 4. c. 76., means, by sect. 142, "all persons who execute the duties of overseers of the poor." The word "person" must be understood with reference to the whole object and effect of the statute, as in *Cortis v. The Kent Waterworks Company* (b), *Boyd v. Croydon Railway Company* (c). Stat. 33 G. 3. c. 55. s. 1. furnishes an instance of the appeal being given to "any person" who "shall be aggrieved," where the parish officers can be aggrieved only as such officers. There will be no hardship in the construction of the act now contended for. The Court of Chancery will enquire into an improper expenditure of the rate; *The Attorney-General v. The Corporation of Poole* (d). Besides, as the overseers may now be required, by stat. 7 W. 4. & 1 Vict. c. 81. s. 1., to pay the borough rate out of the poor-

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The Recorder
of BATH.

(a) 6 A. & E. 905.
(c) 4 New Ca 669.

(b) 7 B. & C. 314.
(d) 1 Keen, 190.

1839. rate, the common remedies applicable to the case of a poor rate may be resorted to.

The QUEEN
against
The Recorder
of BATH.

Joseph Addison, contrà. (The argument as to the first point is omitted.) As to the second point: assuming that stat. 5 & 6 W. 4. c. 76. s. 92. limits the appeal to such cases only as are within stat. 55 G. 3. c. 51. s. 14., still the present case is within both. For a rate made for a purpose which is retrospective is wholly bad; *Woods v. Reed* (a): and therefore the whole parish, not the individual merely (as in *Rex v. The Justices of Westmoreland* (b)), is aggrieved. But the appeal against a borough rate is not limited to cases where an appeal would lie against a county rate. The nature of the relief only is the same: in other circumstances they differ. The two rates are applicable to different purposes; a county has not, as a borough generally has, any fund independent of the rate. In the case of a county rate there are many securities which do not exist in the case of a borough rate; as, for instance, those provided by stat. 12 G. 2. c. 29. ss. 7, 8. The legislature cannot have meant to leave boroughs in which there was only one parish without remedy by appeal.

Cur. adv. vult.

Lord DENMAN C. J. in this vacation (*February 5th*) delivered the judgment of the Court. After stating the facts of the case, his Lordship said,

The appellant having stated several objections (apparently of considerable importance) against the said rate, the recorder expressed his opinion to be that he had no

(a) 2 Mee. & W. 777.

(b) 10 B. & C. 226.

jurisdiction to try the case; and whether that opinion is correct or not is the question. And this depends upon the proper construction to be put upon stat. 5 & 6 W. 4. c. 76. s. 92., and stat. 55 G. 3. c. 51. s. 14. And here, as it seems to us hardly possible to suppose it to have been the intention of the legislature that an individual interested and aggrieved should not have the power of questioning the validity of a rate at the sessions, we cannot avoid noticing with regret that recourse should have been had to the method of giving an appeal by reference to another statute, instead of giving it plainly and directly by the statute itself. The former course, however, has been pursued.

The ninety-second section, then, of the first-mentioned act, which authorises the imposition of a borough rate, gives an appeal in the following words, as applicable to the present case. (His Lordship here read the part of stat. 5 & 6 W. 4. c. 76. s. 92., cited *antè*, p. 873.)

It becomes necessary, therefore, to ascertain with precision what *is* the relief which may in that case be awarded. And this depends upon stat. 55 G. 3. c. 51. s. 14., which is as follows. (His Lordship here read the section: see p. 873., *antè*.)

And from a perusal of this clause it is perfectly obvious that the appeal is given to remedy total omissions of parishes from the rate, or inequalities and disproportions (in relation to each other) in their contributions thereto, and nothing else. *Individual* grievances arising from unequal and disproportionate impositions in each of the parishes, townships, or places are nowhere mentioned or even alluded to. The grievances and complaints of the *whole* parish, township, or place only are noticed.

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The Recorder
of BATH.

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The Recorder
of BATH.

And, accordingly, the appeal is given exclusively to the public officer of the district or division, the churchwarden or overseer. When the word "inhabitant" is used, it is not to be understood as being applicable to *any* individual, but to such only as, for the purpose of appeal, represents some place where the clause supposes neither churchwarden nor overseer to exist; and who must, therefore, be understood to be placed upon the same footing as churchwardens and overseers.

The relief, therefore, to be awarded at the borough sessions, being expressly declared to be such "as in the case of an appeal against any county rate," and that being restricted in the manner we have seen, we are reluctantly driven to the conclusion that an appeal did not lie to the quarter sessions of *Bath*, and that therefore the rule must be

Discharged.

1839.

ACKLAND *against* LUTLEY.Wednesday,
February 6th.

TRESPASS. First count; for breaking and entering buildings and closes of plaintiff and expelling him &c.

Second count; for seizing and removing plaintiff's goods and chattels, and placing them on a common highway without his leave.

Third count; for seizing and taking plaintiff's trees, pollards &c., and converting the same &c.

Pleas. 1. Not guilty. Issue thereon.

2. To counts 1 and 3; that plaintiff was not possessed of the buildings &c. at the time when &c., nor were the trees, &c., the trees, &c., of plaintiff, in manner and form &c.: conclusion to the country. Issue thereon.

3. To count 1; that the buildings and closes, at the time when &c., were the buildings and closes, soil and freehold of *William Braddick*; justification as *Braddick's* servant: verification. Replication; that the buildings and closes, at the time when &c., were not the buildings &c., soil and freehold of *W. B.*, in manner and form &c.: conclusion to the country. Issue thereon.

years from *March 25th*, 1809, paying rent on certain days, of which *March 25th* was one. The estate of which it formed part had been devised by the landlord to trustees to receive the rents and apply them to certain purposes. After the landlord's death, and before the trusts were completely executed, and during the tenancy, the reversion was sold. For a year after this sale, the purchaser received the rents, but, during the subsequent years, from *Christmas 1817* to *Lady-day 1830*, they were received by the trustees. The trusts were completely executed in 1821. On *March 25th*, 1830, the lessee came to the house (no one being therein), gave the key to the trustees, and departed. The trustees entered; and the purchaser, who had been present at the above proceeding, and had come to take possession, entered also, but was put back by the trustees, and they remained on the premises.

Held, that if the lessee's term had expired the reversioner's entry would have been good, notwithstanding the entry of the trustees. But that the term, under the above lease, did not expire till the end of *March 25th*, 1830.

Held, also, that the acts of the lessee on that day did not necessarily import a surrender or a forfeiture.

Devise to *R.* and *W.* in trust that they and their heirs shall set and let the premises, and out of the rents and profits pay a debt of the testator, and certain legacies; devise, from and after such payment, to *J. B.* in fee. Testator, after making his will, demised the premises for a term, which did not expire till after his death, and after payment of the debt and legacies.

Held, that the estate of the trustees determined when the debt and legacies were paid.

A house was demised, habendum for twenty-one

1839.

ACKLAND
against
LUTLEY.

4. To count 2; that, before and at the first of the times when &c., *James Pring* was lawfully possessed of a certain close adjoining the said common highway; and, because the goods, &c., before and at the said time when &c., were wrongfully in and upon the said close encumbering the same &c.; the plea then averred that defendant, as *Pring's* servant and by his command, at the time when &c., took and seized the goods and removed and placed them on the said highway, being within a small and convenient distance, and there left the same for plaintiff's use, doing no unnecessary damage &c.: verification. Replication, De injuriâ. Issue thereon.

5. To count 2; a similar justification under *William Braddick*. Replication, De injuriâ. Issue thereon.

6. To count 2; a similar justification under *William Toler*. Replication, De injuriâ. Issue thereon.

The cause coming on for trial at the *Taunton* Spring assizes, 1836, a verdict was taken for the plaintiff, subject to the award of a barrister, to whom the cause was referred, with liberty to order a verdict for either party, or a nonsuit, and to raise any question of law on such award. The arbitrator awarded as follows.

"I do specially find and state the following facts. One *James Troake*, being seised in fee of the dwelling house" &c., "and of the lands" &c., "mentioned in the declaration, by his will" &c., "devised the same as follows:—To *Robert Blackmore* and *William Braddick* upon the trusts, and to and for the intents and purposes, thereafter mentioned and declared concerning the same, that is to say: Upon trust that they the said *R. B.* and *W. B.* and their heirs do and shall set and let the said premises, and out of the rents and profits thereof do and shall in the first place pay off and discharge the sum of 121*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.* which I do owe to

Mary

Mary Dyer my servant, and in the next place do and shall pay unto *Mary, Hannah, Richard, James* and *Joan*, sons and daughters of my late nephew *Richard Blackmore*, deceased, the sum of 10*l.* apiece of like lawful money, to whom I give the same, to be paid unto each of them by my said trustees as soon as the clear rents and profits of the said premises will admit of; the eldest of them to be paid first, and so on in rotation one after the other. And, from and after the debt due to *Mary Dyer*, and the five legacies to the aforesaid children of my said nephew *Richard Blackmore*, are paid off and discharged, I give, devise and bequeath the same unto *John Blackmore*, son of the said *Richard Blackmore* deceased, to hold the same premises, with the rights, members, and appurtenances thereof, unto the said *John Blackmore*, his heirs and assigns for ever.

“The testator, *James Troake*, died in 1811. Previously to his death he granted a lease of the said premises to one *Thomas Pring*, for twenty-one years from the 25th *March* 1809, at the yearly rent of 30*l.*, under which lease *Pring* entered and occupied till his death, which happened some time before this action was brought. On the death of *James Troake*, *John Blackmore*, the devisee, received the rents of the premises of *Pring*, the tenant, till *Lady-day* 1816, when he sold the same to *Richard Ackland*, the plaintiff, whose daughter he had married; but the premises were not actually conveyed to the plaintiff till the 12th *July* 1817. The plaintiff received the rent of *Pring* from the time of his purchase at *Lady-day* 1816 till *Christmas* 1817; when the trustees, *Robert Blackmore* and *William Braddick*, received the rents till the death of *Robert Blackmore* in *May* 1824; from which time *William Braddick*, the surviving trustee, alone

1839.

 ACKLAND
against
LUTLEY.

1839.

 ACKLAND
 against
 LUTLEY.

alone received the rents till *Lady-day* 1829. *Robert Blackmore*, by his will, made *Edward Lutley*, the defendant, and *George Braddick*, the son of *William Braddick* the other trustee, his executors. The debt to *Mary Dyer* was paid in *November* 1815. The legatees were all paid the amount of their legacies previously to *June* 1821.

“About twelve o'clock at noon on the 25th *March* 1830, the plaintiff, with his daughter, the wife of *John Blackmore*, went to the dwelling-house in the declaration mentioned, in order to take possession of the same. No person was then residing in the house; and the door was locked. The defendant, accompanied by the aforesaid *George Braddick*, who attended by the directions of his father *William Braddick* the surviving trustee under *James Troake's* will, the parish constable, and others, came also to the said dwelling-house at the same time. Shortly afterwards, *James Pring*, the representative of the original lessee *Thomas Pring*, and who was the person in possession of the premises under the said lease for twenty-one years from the 25th *March* 1809, came with his wife to the door of the dwelling-house, saying he thought it was nearly twelve o'clock, and time to give up possession of the premises. His wife then gave him two keys, which he handed to the defendant and *George Braddick*, and, having described which belonged to the outer door and which to the cellar, he and his wife went away. The defendant and *George Braddick* then unlocked the door. The plaintiff and his party immediately attempted to enter the house; but the defendant and *George Braddick* ordered the constable to keep the plaintiff and those with him from entering the house, which they did by pushing the plaintiff

plaintiff and his party back forcibly. On the defendant and *George Braddick* entering, they put *William Toler* into possession, saying they had let the farm to him at 35*l.* per annum; but that if, when the decree came down (alluding to a suit in the Court of Exchequer instituted by the plaintiff against the trustees to recover possession of the property), it was given in the plaintiff's favour, they would give up possession. Upon the above state of facts I do find and award as follows:—

1. On the issue upon the first plea: As to

Count 1. For plaintiff.

Counts 2 and 3. For defendant.

2. On the second issue. For defendant.

3. On the third issue. For plaintiff.

4. On the fourth issue. For defendant.

5 and 6. On the fifth and sixth issues. For plaintiff.

And I do direct that, if the Court should be of opinion that the issue joined on the second plea should, upon the facts stated, have been found for the plaintiff instead of the defendant, and that the issue joined on the replication, so far as the same applies to the third plea, is rightly found for the plaintiff, then I do further find that the damages on such issue are 35*l.* And I do further direct that, if the Court shall be of opinion that any of the above issues are wrongly found, then such issue shall be entered, not as found above, but according to the direction of the Court.

In *Michaelmas* term, 1837, the plaintiff obtained a rule to shew cause why a verdict should not be entered for him on the second and fourth issues. And the defendant, in the same term, obtained a rule to shew cause why a verdict should not be entered for him on the third, fifth, and sixth issues.

1839.

ACKLAND
against
LUTLEY.

Erle

1839.

ACKLAND
against
LUTLEY.

Erle and Bere, in *Michaelmas* term, 1838 (a), shewed cause against the former rule. The arbitrator has found rightly that the plaintiff was not possessed of the buildings and closes mentioned in the second plea, and that *Pring* was possessed of the close mentioned in the fourth plea, at the times, respectively, of the alleged trespasses referred to by those pleas. The question is whether, when the defendant entered upon the premises on *March* 25th, 1830, *Pring's* term in them had expired, by surrender or forfeiture, or by lapse of time. As to the latter point, the lease for twenty-one years from 25th *March* 1809 (b) did not necessarily expire on *March* 25th, 1830. Whether the term included or excluded that day, would depend on the circumstances of the case; *Pugh v. Duke of Leeds* (c): and of those the arbitrator was judge. And if the term had not expired, the tenant, though he had left the premises, was at liberty to return at any time during the 25th, notwithstanding any entry in the meanwhile by persons not entitled: *Butcher v. Butcher* (d). Then it must be contended that, when the plaintiff attempted to enter, *James Pring*, the tenant, had incurred a forfeiture by delivering the keys to the defendant and *Braddick*: and *Doe dem. Ellerbrock v. Flynn* (e) will be cited on this point. There a lessee had given up possession to the defendant, not that

(a) *November* 8th. Before Lord *Denman* C. J., *Patteson*, *Williams*, and *Coleridge* Js.

(b) The words of the lease were not set out in the award, but were stated to the Court by consent (so far as they were material), in the course of the argument. The indenture bore date *April* 15th, 1808, and the habendum, was, from *March* 25th then next, for and during and unto the full end and term of twenty-one years then next ensuing and fully to be ended. The rent was made payable on the usual quarter days.

(c) 2 *Cowp.* 714.

(d) 7 *B. & C.* 399.

(e) 1 *Cro. M. & R.* 137.; *S. C.* 4 *Tyrrwh.* 619.

he

he might occupy under the lease, but that he might set up a title adverse to that of the landlord; and, the jury having found fraud, the lease was held to be forfeited. Here the arbitrator has not found fraud; nor do the facts shew it. *William Braddick* was the person who had for several years received the rent; and if there was a contest between him and another party as to title, and *Pring* erroneously recognised his title, that would not create a forfeiture; *Doe dem. Williams v. Pasquali* (a). The delivery of the keys was not a surrender, because that, by stat. 29 C. 2. c. 3. s. 3., must be either by deed or note in writing, or by act and operation of law. A surrender by operation of law should be made to the reversioner; here no surrender to the reversioner was made or contemplated. If it is contended that *Pring* quitted the premises, before his tenancy expired, by licence from his landlord, *Mollett v. Brayne* (b) shews that this would not amount to a surrender by operation of law.

1839.

 ACKLAND
 against
 LUTLEY.

Crowder and *Kinglake*, contra. The tenancy began on March 25th, 1809, and, consequently, expired on March 24th, 1830. *Pugh v. Duke of Leeds* (c) warrants this construction, if the facts will bear it out; and the conduct of *Pring* himself shews him to have been aware that the tenancy expired on that day, or, at farthest, by noon on the 25th. *Lester v. Garland* (d), and the other authorities which suggest a rule of computation from an act done, are inapplicable, because here an act is not in question. Where an interest is to pass from a given day, there, according to the general result

(a) 1 *Peake*, N. P. C. 259. 3d ed.(b) 2 *Camp.* 103.(c) 2 *Cowp.* 714.(d) 15 *Ves.* 248.

1839.

ACKLAND
against
LUTLEY.

of the authorities since *Hatter v. Ash* (a), the day is included. Supposing, however, that *March 25th*, 1830, was the last day of the tenancy, *Pring* might give up the premises at any time on that day, and would be deemed to have completed his term, the fraction of a day not being regarded; per *Holt C. J.* in *Fitzhugh v. Dennington* (b). Having held till the beginning of *March 25th*, he might be considered as having occupied throughout that day. [*Coleridge J.* If so, you would fail on the fourth issue.] The fraction of a day would not be regarded as between the landlord and tenant; but, if it were material to the rights of a third party, the real time would be looked to. Supposing, however, that there remained, at noon of *March 25th*, a fraction of the term which could be surrendered, then the giving up of the keys to *George Braddick* was an act which, if he had been, or had represented, the rightful landlord, would have determined the tenancy, according to *Whitehead v. Clifford* (c). That case was distinguished from *Mollett v. Brayne* (d) by the circumstance (which also occurs here) that both parties acted as on a determination of the tenancy. *Grimman v. Legge* (e) is also a case in which a parol agreement, acted upon by both parties, was held to determine a tenancy. And, if in the present case the term was ended by operation of law, then, though the surrender was made to *Braddick*, the plaintiff, who was present for the purpose of taking possession, might lawfully enter and bring trespass against any who wrongfully continued on the land: *Butcher v. Butcher* (g), *Taunton v. Costar* (h), *Turner v. Meymott* (i). If it be necessary to

(a) 1 *Ld. Ray.* 84.(c) 5 *Taunt.* 518.(e) 8 *B. & C.* 324.(h) 7 *T. R.* 431.(b) 2 *Ld. Ray.* 1094.(d) 2 *Camp.* 103.(g) 7 *B. & C.* 399.(i) 1 *Bing.* 158.

contend

contend that *Pring's* surrender to *Braddick* created a forfeiture, *Doe dem. Ellerbrock v. Flynn* (a) fully bears out that proposition.

Cur. adv. vult.

1839.

ACKLAND
against
LUTLEY.

Crowder and *Kinglake* then shewed cause against the rule for entering a verdict for the defendant on the third, fourth, and sixth issues. The defendant cannot succeed on all these issues. The verdict will probably be contended for on the third and fifth; and the question will be whether, by the will of *James Troake*, the trustees, *Robert Blackmore* and *William Braddick*, took an interest which would expire when the trusts were executed, or a fee simple which remained in them till they should convey it away. Their interest was of the former kind. There is no express devise in fee; a determinable interest was adequate to the trusts created; and the rule is, in such cases, that trustees under devises of this nature take such an interest only as the purposes of the trust require: *Carter v. Barnadiston* (b), *Shapland v. Smith* (c), *Lord Say and Seal v. Lady Catherine Jones* (d), *Silvester dem. Law v. Wilson* (e). In the last two cases the devise was to the trustees and their heirs; yet the trustees took less than a fee simple. The rule is also exemplified by *Doe dem. Wheedon v. Lea* (g), *Doe dem. Compere v. Hicks* (h), and *Goodtittle dem. Hayward v. Whitby* (i). *Doe dem. White v. Simp-*

(a) 1 Cro. M. & R. 137.; S. C. 4 Tyrwh. 619. (b) 1 P. Wms. 505, 509.

(c) 1 Bro. Ch. Ca. 75.

(d) 3 Bro. Parl. Ca. 113. See *Lady Jones v. Lord Say and Seal*, in Chanc. 8 Vin. Abr. 262. tit. *Devise* (C. b), pl. 19.

(e) 2 T. R. 444.

(g) 3 T. R. 41.

(h) 7 T. R. 433.

(i) 1 Burr. 228.

1839.

ACKLAND
against
LUTLEY.

son (a) is a case of the same class. There a leasing power was given to the trustees, a circumstance which may be relied on for the defendant here; and yet they were held not to take an estate in fee simple. Lord *Ellenborough* said there: "The testator gives them power and authority to grant building or other leases, as often as there should be occasion, of the said estates so devised to them 'in trust as aforesaid;' hereby evidently connecting the execution of the power with the particular trust estates before created, and exhibiting an intention that the leasing power should be merely commensurate therewith and auxiliary thereto." *Doe dem. Player v. Nicholls* (b), *Warter v. Hutchinson* (c), and *Nash v. Coates* (d) are among the later cases in which a limited construction has been put upon devises to trustees. In *Doe dem. Player v. Nicholls* (b) *Bayley J.* said, "It may be laid down as a general rule, that where an estate is devised to trustees for particular purposes, the legal estate is vested in them as long as the execution of the trust requires it, and no longer, and therefore, as soon as the trusts are satisfied, it will vest in the person beneficially entitled to it." [*Patteson J.* The generality of that statement has been somewhat qualified since (e).]

In the cases which may be cited for the defendant, greater powers were always given to the trustees than in the present instance, and a fee has been held to pass, in fulfilment of the testator's evident intention, and to protect the objects of his bounty. Thus in *Doe dem. Tomkyns v. Willan* (g) the estates were given to the

(a) 5 *East*, 162.(b) 1 *B. & C.* 336.(c) 1 *B. & C.* 721.(d) 3 *B. & Ad.* 839.(e) See *Doe dem. Shelley v. Edlin*, 4 *A. & E.* 589.(g) 2 *B. & Ald.* 84.

trustees and their heirs, upon trust to demise for any term they should think proper. In *Doe dem. Keen v. Walbank* (a) the leasing power was even larger. Here the devise is, only, to *Robert Blackmore* and *William Brad-dick*, upon trust that they and their heirs "do and shall set and let the said premises," and make certain payments out of the rents and profits. In *Doe dem. Booth v. Field* (b) the trustees were, ultimately, to convey the fee. In *Doe dem. Rees v. Williams* (c) the real property was to be equally divided by them between the testatrix's grand-nieces, which was equivalent to a direction to convey. And in *Doe dem. Shelley v. Edlin* (d) the trustee might have had to convey the fee. Many of the prior decisions are commented upon in that case, and the general rule explained and confirmed. If the trustees, in a case like the present, took a fee, it would at most be only a fee determinable when the trusts had been discharged, as was held in *Wellington v. Wellington* (e), cited, *Fearne, Cont. Rem.* 450. note (b) (9th ed.), and *Doe dem. Brune v. Martyn* (g). In that part of the present will where the testator intended to give a fee, he has expressed that intention in proper words, devising to *John Blackmore*, "his heirs and assigns for ever."

1839.

 ACKLAND
 against
 LUTLEY.

Erle and *Bere*, contra. The trustees took a fee under the will. The intention that they should do so is implied by the mention of "heirs," though the devise is not directly to the trustees and their heirs. The want of such an express devise is not material if the intent be

(a) 2 B. & Ad. 554.

(b) 2 B. & Ad. 564.

(c) 2 M. & W. 749.

(d) 4 A. & E. 582.

(e) 4 Burr. 2165.

(g) 8 B. & C. 497.

1839.

ACKLAND
against
LUTLEY.

clear; *Com. Dig., Devise*, (N 4.); *Shaw v. Weigh* (a). Although the decisions are not uniform on the effect of a power to "set and let," the result of the later authorities is that, where the words will carry a fee, and a power of demising is given, to which the Court cannot see a clear limit, an estate in fee is held to pass. *Jones v. Morgan* (b), *Wright v. Pearson* (c), *Gibson v. Lord Montfort* (d) and *Doe dem. Beezley v. Woodhouse* (e), shew the rules which determine the quantity of interest vesting in trustees to whom lands are devised for specific purposes; and these cases favour the construction which gives the larger estate. In *Carter v. Barnadiston* (g), where an interest short of a fee simple was held to pass, the testator had merely directed that his executors (not mentioning their heirs) should receive the profits of his real estate for the payment of his debts and legacies. *Lord Say and Seal v. Lady Catherine Jones* (h) has been remarked upon as a case by itself (i). In *Doe dem. White v. Simpson* (k) there were no words of inheritance; the estate given to the trustees was continued in the executors and administrators of the survivor. The decision in *Shapland v. Smith* (l) proceeded on reasons which do not apply here.

The most important cases in which a question like the present turned upon a leasing power are *Doe dem. Tomkyns v. Willan* (m) and *Doe dem. Keen v. Wal-*

(a) 2 *Stra.* 798.(b) 1 *Bro. Ch. Ca.* 206.(c) 1 *Eden's Ca. Chanc.* 119.(d) 1 *Ves. sen.* 485.(e) 4 *T. R.* 89.(g) 1 *P. Wms.* 505, 509.(h) 3 *Bro. P. C.* 113. *Lady Jones v. Lord Say and Seal*, 8 *Vin. Abr.* 262. tit. *Devise* (C. b), pl. 19.(i) See *Doe dem. White v. Simpson*, 5 *East*, 162.; *Harton v. Harton*, 7 *T. R.* 652.; *Kenrick v. Lord William Beauclerk*, 3 *B. & P.* 175.(k) 5 *East*, 162.(l) 1 *Bro. Ch. Ca.* 75.(m) 2 *B. & Ald.* 84.

bank;

bank (a); and, according to these, if the Court cannot clearly ascertain that less than an estate in fee will suffice for the full exercise of the power, a fee will vest. In *Doe dem. Tomkyns v. Willan (b)* *Hobroyd J.* says: "The estate is given to them" (the trustees) "and their heirs in trust, and among other trusts is one, that they should 'demise all the freehold estates for any term they should think proper.'" "The leases were to operate out of the estate given to the trustees themselves. Now such leases could not be valid, unless they took an estate more than commensurate with their duration; and as by the will they have the right to grant leases for any term of years, it follows, that in order to make such leases valid, they must take an estate in fee. It cannot depend upon subsequent events, whether they are to take an estate in fee or not, because they must take that estate in the first instance, on the death of the testator." And *Abbott J.* assigned as a reason for his judgment that he was unable "clearly to see what less estate than the fee the trustees took, or even what less estate would satisfy all the objects" of the will. The principles which guided the Court in that case were expressly adopted in *Doe dem. Keen v. Walbank (c)*. And in the earlier case of *Gibson v. Lord Montfort (d)*, where trustees were held to take the whole legal estate, Lord *Hardwicke* said, "Here are purposes to be answered, which by possibility (and that is sufficient) cannot be answered, without the trustees having a fee." [*Patterson J.* In *Stanley v. Stanley (e)* the devise was to trustees and their heirs, on trust that they, and the survivor, and the heirs of the survivor, should receive the rents and

1839.

 AOKLAND
 against
 LUTLEY.

(a) 2 B. & Ad. 554.

(b) 2 B. & Ald. 84.

(c) 2 B. & Ad. 564.

(d) 1 Ves. sen. 485, 491.

(e) 16 Ves. 491.

1839.

ACKLAND
against
LUTLEY.

profits till *T. M.* should attain the age of twenty-one, and immediately afterwards should convey to certain uses; and they were held to take an estate determinable on *T. M.* attaining twenty-one.] That decision is at variance with *Doe dem. Shelley v. Edlin (a)* and *Doe dem. Rees v. Williams (b)*. In *Doe dem. Pratt v. Timins (c)*, where the trustee was held to take only till the heir at law attained twenty-one, the opinion of the Court seems to have been that at that period the legal and equitable estate vested in the heir-at-law without the form of a conveyance.

Here, however, it appears that the power to lease must have existed in the trustees on *March 25th, 1830*: for, as *Pring* was in possession before the testator's death, for a term extending to *Lady Day 1830*, the power, if it did not then take effect, was nugatory; and it would be sufficient, for the purposes of the present case, if the trustees had, at that time, an interest of any duration.

It cannot be contended that the trustees took a determinable fee; because the devise over to *John Blackmore* would, in that case, be too remote, and void, according to the judgment of Lord *Hardwicke* in *Bagshaw v. Spencer (d)*, being postponed till after payment of the debt and legacies. It is true that those payments were, in point of fact, all made before *June 1821*: but, if the devise was void in its creation, subsequent events could not make it valid; *Goodman v. Goodright dem. Williams (e)*.

(*Crowder* mentioned *Doe dem. Cadogan v. Ewart (g)*, as a case in which the interest of trustees in estates de-

(a) 4 A. & E. 582.

(b) 2 M. & W. 749.

(c) 1 B. & Ald. 530.

(d) 1 Ves. sen. 142. See p. 144.

(e) 2 Burr. 873.

(g) 7 A. & E. 636.

vised for the purposes of the trusts, had been lately considered.)

1839.

*Cur. adv. vult.*ACKLAND
against
LUTLEY.

Lord DENMAN C. J. now delivered the judgment of the Court. After stating the substance of the rules, and the material facts found by the arbitrator, his Lordship said,

The greater question arose on the defendant's pleas, that *Braddick* was possessed, and that *Toler* was possessed, which the arbitrator found against him, thereby affirming the plaintiff's title as a purchaser from *J. Blackmore* and denying that of the trustees. We think the award clearly right in this respect. The case most relied on for the opposite doctrine is *Doe dem. Tomkyns v. Wil-lan (a)*; recognised by some more recent decisions, in which the circumstance of the trustees having power to lease at their discretion was relied on by the Court as shewing the testator's intention to vest an absolute fee in them. Here it is true they have power to set and let, a power which (it was ingeniously observed), as *Pring's* lease would not expire till 1830, could not be acted upon till after that period. But it is not found by the award that *Pring's* lease was in existence when the will was made; and, if it were, not only is the whole power of the trustees limited to the purpose of paying the specified debt and legacies, but the estate is expressly given over when they are paid. Now that event happened in 1821. It may be added that there might have been a necessity for creating a term for payment of the debts and legacies, for which purpose the power might have been given.

(a) 2 B. & A. 84.

1839.

ACKLAND
against
LUTLEY.

We are next to consider whether the arbitrator was right in finding that the plaintiff was not possessed and that *Pring* the lessee was possessed. The acts done by *Pring* are equivocal; and they do not necessarily import either surrender or forfeiture of the term. But the plaintiff, who was entitled to the reversion, actually entered; and that entry was good if the term had then expired, *i. e.* at 12 o'clock in the day-time on the 25th day of *March* 1830. Four cases were quoted to shew that it had expired with the preceding day: *Hatter v. Ash* (a), *Fitzhugh v. Dennington* (b), *Thomas v. Desanges* (c), *Grimman v. Legge* (d). Of these cases the first named alone applies in any degree to the point; and that is disposed of by Lord *Mansfield's* observations in his admirable judgment in *Pugh v. The Duke of Leeds* (e), to the principle of which we fully adhere. The general understanding is, that terms for years last during the whole anniversary of the day from which they are granted. Indeed, if this were otherwise, the last day, on which rent is almost uniformly made payable, would be posterior to the lease. We think therefore that both rules must be discharged.

Rules discharged.

(a) 1 *Lord Ray.* 84.

(c) 2 *B. & Ald.* 586.

(e) 2 *Cowp.* 714.

(b) 2 *Lord Ray.* 1094.

(d) 8 *B. & C.* 324.

1839.

SWANWICK and Another *against* SOTHERN and Others. *Wednesday, February 6th.*

TROVER for 1028 bushels of oats. Pleas. 1. Not Guilty. 2. That the oats were not the property of the plaintiffs, in manner and form &c. Issues thereon. On the trial before *Patteson J.* at the *Liverpool Spring assizes, 1837*, the material facts appeared to be as follows. The plaintiffs were corn-dealers at *Manchester*; the defendants carried on the business of wharfingers at the *Duke's Quay*, in the same town. The oats in question, being in a warehouse of the defendants, were sold (a) by *Turner and Co.*, the owners, to *John Marsden*, and the following delivery order given, addressed to the warehouse keeper.

“ *Mr. Wm. Eaton, Duke's Quay.*

“ Deliver *Mr. John Marsden* 1028 $\frac{1}{3}$ bushel oats, bin 40. O. W., and you will please weigh them over and charge us the expense.

“ *Oct. 3d, 1836.*

Joseph Turner and Co.”

The warehouse keeper entered this order in his book: and on *October 5th* he received the following order from *John Marsden*.

“ *Mr. Wm. Eaton, Duke's Quay.*

“ Deliver *Messrs. Swanwick and Hall* 1028 $\frac{1}{3}$ bushel

transitu. Although the delivery order describes the goods by the weight as well as the bin (“1028 bushels of oats in bin 40.”), and directs the warehouseman to weigh them over.

(a) The contracts between *Turner and Marsden*, and *Marsden* and the plaintiffs, were referred to in the ensuing argument; but their terms were not stated to the Court. See p. 900. post.

On a contract for the sale of goods lying in a warehouse, the handing of a delivery order to the vendee, and transfer of the goods to him in the warehouse-
man's book, will not vest the property in him, if something remains to be done for the purpose of ascertaining the identity or quantity of the goods; as the weighing of an article forming part of a bulk, and sold by weight.

But, if the identity and quantity are ascertained, as where the oats in a particular bin, which contains nothing else, are sold, and a bill accepted at the same time for the price, the property vests, and the vendor cannot afterwards stop in

1839.

SWANWICK
against
SOTHERN.

oats in bin 40. O. Warehouse; and let them be weighed over and send a note up: I will see it paid.

“ *Fr. and Jno. Marsden,*

“ *Manchester, 5th Oct. 1836.*”

Swanwick and *Hall*, the plaintiffs, accepted a bill drawn by *Marsden*, *October 7th*, 1836, for the value of the oats, which was duly honoured. *Eaton* entered the order of *October 5th* in his book, and said to the party delivering it that all would be right, and he would attend to the order. The oats were transferred to the plaintiffs in the defendants' books, but without weighing over. There were no oats in bin 40 but the quantity mentioned in the order. *Eaton* stated, at the trial, that from the 5th to the 12th of *October* the oats would have been delivered to the plaintiffs if required. *Marsden* becoming insolvent, *Turner*, on *October 12th*, gave the defendants notice not to part with the oats; and, on the 14th, the defendants gave them up to *Turner* on an indemnity. At that time, and not before, they were weighed over, and they were found to be two bushels short of the weight mentioned in the orders. It was proved at the trial that the defendants did not consider themselves bound to weigh, and were not used to weigh, till delivery, when the grain was weighed to ascertain any loss of quantity. The question was, whether, without weighing, the property was sufficiently transferred to vest in the plaintiffs; or whether, on *October 14th*, *Turner* still had a right to stop in transitu. *Patteson J.* thought that, on the above state of facts, the plaintiffs were entitled to recover, but he gave leave to move for a nonsuit; and the plaintiffs had a verdict. In *Easter term*,

term, 1837, a rule nisi was obtained for a nonsuit or a new trial. In *Hilary* term, 1839 (*a*),

1839.

SWANWICK
against
SOTHERN.

Cresswell and *Tomlinson* shewed cause. No weighing was necessary, in this case, to vest a right in the plaintiffs; as between them and the defendants, at least, the attornment of the defendants' warehouseman was of itself conclusive: *Stonard v. Dunkin* (*b*), *Harman v. Anderson* (*c*), *Lucas v. Dorrien* (*d*), *Barton v. Boddington* (*e*), *Gosling v. Birnie* (*g*), *Holl v. Griffin* (*h*); which cases agree, in principle, with *Dixon v. Hamond* (*i*) and *Hawes v. Watson* (*k*). Even if this had been a question between vendor and vendee, it might be contended, on the authority of *Whitehouse v. Frost* (*l*), that the transaction here proved made the sale and delivery complete, there being an order for the transfer of a specific quantity of goods, and that order accepted; and, consequently, that no question as to the right of stopping in transitu could any longer arise. And, further, the goods here were transferred as a pledge for a specific sum of money advanced by the plaintiffs; the defendants held the oats in trust for them, and no longer subject to the control of *Turner and Co.*: *Haille v. Smith* (*m*), recognized in *Patten v. Thompson* (*n*). *Shepley v. Davis* (*o*) was cited in moving for the present rule. There ten tons of hemp, in the hands of a wharfinger, were sold, and an order given, directing him to weigh

(*a*) January 25th. Before Lord Denman C. J., *Littledale, Patteson, and Williams* Jr.

(*b*) 2 *Camp.* 344.

(*d*) 7 *Taunt.* 278.

(*g*) 7 *Bing.* 339.

(*i*) 2 *B. & Ald.* 310.

(*l*) 12 *East*, 614.

(*n*) 5 *M. & S.* 350.

(*c*) 2 *Camp.* 243.

(*e*) 1 *Car. & P.* 207.

(*h*) 10 *Bing.* 246.

(*k*) 2 *B. & C.* 540.

(*m*) 1 *Box. & P.* 563.

(*o*) 5 *Taunt.* 617.

and

1839.

SWANWICK
against
SOTHERBY.

and deliver, and the property was held not to pass before weighing; but the ten tons were part of a larger mass, and weighing was necessary to ascertain what was to be delivered. And in *Hanson v. Meyer (a)*, a similar case, also cited in moving, it could not be ascertained, without weighing, what quantity of goods the purchaser was to receive, and for what sum he was to give a bill according to the contract: and therefore weighing was held a condition precedent to the vesting of the property. This view of the case was relied upon in *Hawes v. Watson (b)*, where both *Hanson v. Meyer (a)* and *Shepley v. Davis (c)* were cited. Here the purchasers contracted for a specific parcel of goods, namely, all the oats which were lying in a certain bin, and gave their acceptance for the price.

Wightman and *W. H. Watson*, contra. It is not disputed, on the defendants' part, that, if there had been a general unqualified delivery order, received and accepted by their agent, even without a transfer in their books, *Turner* and Co. would have lost their property in these goods, and could not have stopped them in transitu. But the order here was, "Deliver to S. and H. 1028 $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{2}{3}$ bushels of oats in bin 40., and let them be weighed over and send a note up: I will see it paid." It does not appear that the plaintiffs were bound to take them if they exceeded or fell short of the bulk contracted for; and weighing was necessary to ascertain whether they did exceed or fall short. They did, in fact, when weighed, fall short of the quantity named. [*Williams J.* Was not the quantity designated by its forming the

(a) 6 East, 614.

(b) 2 B. & C. 540.

(c) 5 Taunt. 617.

contents of a particular bin? *Littledale J.* If they were to take all that that bin contained, weighing seems to have been immaterial.] The bargain was for $1028\frac{1}{4}$ bushels. It cannot be contended that the purchasers were bound to take the oats, however much they might fall short of that quantity; and, if they might have refused them for deficiency, then weighing was essential to the completion of the sale. [*Patteson J.* Within what time do you say that the weighing must have taken place? None was specified. In *Shepley v. Davis (a)* a time was pointed out within which the goods must have been weighed and delivered.] Here, either party might, at any time, have required that the oats should be weighed. The case falls within the principle of *Hanson v. Meyer (b)*, *Busk v. Davis (c)*, *Shepley v. Davis (a)*, and *Withers v. Lyss (d)*. Something remained to be done between the vendor and vendee to ascertain what was to be delivered; and therefore there had been no complete transfer. If *Turner* is divested of his property in the oats, it ought to be in his power to sue *Marsden* on the contract between them; but the facts would not support an action by *Turner* against *Marsden*.

Cur. adv. vult.

LORD DENMAN C. J. now delivered the judgment of the Court.

The question in this case turns upon the construction of two delivery orders. [His Lordship then read the orders set out, p. 895. *antè*.] The oats were all that were in bin 40. They were transferred to the plaintiffs

(a) 5 *Taunt.* 617.

(b) 6 *East*, 614.

(c) Cited in *Shepley v. Davis*, 5 *Taunt.* 622. note (a). *S. C.* 2 *M. & S.* 397.

(d) 4 *Camp.* 237.

1839.

SWANWICK
against
SOTHEBY.

in the defendants' books, but never weighed over. The plaintiffs had accepted a bill for the price, which they duly honoured. On *Marsden's* failure, Messieurs *Turner* sought to stop them; and the only question is, whether weighing over was in this case necessary, in order to vest the property in the plaintiffs and defeat the stoppage in transitu. Neither of the contracts of sale were given in evidence.

The cases on this subject establish the principle that, wherever any thing remains to be done by the seller, which is essential to the completion of the contract, a symbolical delivery by transfer in the wharfinger's books will not defeat the right of stoppage in transitu as between buyer and seller. *Hanson v. Meyer (a)*, *Shepley v. Davis (b)*, *Busk v. Davis (c)*, abundantly shew this. Therefore, if part of a bulk be sold, so that weighing or separation is necessary to determine the identity or individuality (as Lord *Ellenborough* expresses it in *Busk v. Davis (c)*) of the article, or if the whole of a commodity be sold, but weighing is necessary to ascertain the price, because the quantity is unknown, the weighing or measuring must precede the delivery; and the symbolical delivery without such weighing will not be sufficient.

But where the identity of the goods and the quantity are known the weighing can only be for the satisfaction of the buyer, as was held in *Hammond v. Anderson (d)*; and in such case the transfer in the books of the wharfinger is sufficient. We are of opinion that the present case is of the latter description, and that this property passed as between buyer and seller. We have therefore no occasion to resort to the doctrine of estoppel,

(a) 6 East, 614.

(b) 5 Taunt. 617.

(c) 2 M. & S. 397.

(d) 1 New Rep. 69.

which

which is strongly enforced in *Hawes v. Watson* (a): but we do not mean, in so saying, to cast any doubt upon the authority of that case. Under these circumstances, the rule for a nonsuit must be discharged.

1839.

SWANWICK
against
SOTKMAN.

Rule discharged.

(a) 2 B. & C. 540.

The QUEEN against The Poor Law Commissioners for ENGLAND and WALES.

Wednesday,
February 6th.

In the Matter of the STRAND Union.

CHANNELL, in *Michaelmas* term, 1837, obtained a rule, calling on the Poor Law Commissioners to shew cause why a certiorari should not issue to remove into this Court certain orders and regulations made by them, dated *March* 7th, 1836, directing, among other things, that the guardians of the poor of the *Strand* Union should (subject to the approbation of the commissioners) appoint a person to perform the duties in the said orders and regulations specified to belong to the office of collector of rates in the several parishes within the said union. The rule was moved for at the instance of *Donald Coghill*, collector of the poor's rate for the parish of *St. Paul, Covent Garden, Middlesex*.

The grounds of this application, stated in a notice served on the commissioners (pursuant to stat. 4 & 5 W. 4. c. 76. s. 106.), were, 1. That the duties of a collector of rates do not come within the description of the objects or purposes for which paid officers are authorised to be appointed under the direction of the

Where the Poor Law Commissioners, by order under stat. 4 & 5 W. 4. c. 76. s. 26., formed several parishes into a union, but the parishes were not united for the purpose of rating, and one of the parishes, before the issuing of such order, had been governed by a local act (10 G. 4. c. lxviii.), which directed that the vestrymen of such parish should assess and lay the poor rates and appoint a collector,

Held, that the Poor Law Commissioners could not, by order made under stat. 4 & 5 W. 4. c. 76. s. 46.,

direct the appointment of a collector of poor rates to act within such parish.
commissioners

1839.
 ———
 The QUEEN
 against
 The Poor Law
 Commissioners,
 In the Matter
 of the STRAND
 Union.

commissioners by stat. 4 & 5 W. 4. c. 76. s. 46.; and that the appointment of collector of rates is not in any way authorised or directed to be made by that statute. 2. That the right to appoint a collector of the poor's rate in and for *St. Paul, Covent Garden*, is ascertained and governed, among other things, by a certain act of parliament &c. (10 G. 4. c. lxxviii., local and personal, public (a)), and that such right is still vested in the vestrymen

(a) Stat. 10 G. 4. c. lxxviii., local and personal, public, is entitled "An Act to repeal several acts relating to the parish of *St. Paul Covent Garden*, in the county of *Middlesex*; and for making better provision for the regulation of the affairs of the said parish." Sect. 19 enacts, That the vestrymen "may from time to time, at any of their meetings, elect and appoint all such officers, medical and other attendants, servants and persons (excepting beadles and watchmen), as they shall think proper for carrying this act into execution; and also may from time to time suspend or displace such officers, medical and other attendants, servants and persons, (except as aforesaid), or any of them, and appoint others in the room of those suspended or displaced; and out of the monies to be received under this act may pay such salaries or allowances to the said officers, medical and other attendants, servants or other persons, as they shall think reasonable; and the said committee-men shall and they are hereby required to take sufficient security from every treasurer, collector, or other receiver of money, to be appointed under this act, for the faithful execution of his office, and may also take such security from any other officer as they shall think reasonable."

Sect. 55 enacts, "That from and after the passing of this act three equal pound rates shall be laid and assessed by the said vestrymen of the said parish, once or oftener in every year, upon all and every the tenants and occupiers of houses," &c. "and other hereditaments and premises within the said parish, according to the respective annual value thereof; one of such rates, for the maintenance and relief of the poor of the said parish, and for defraying all expenses incident thereto or connected therewith, to be called 'The Poor Rate;' another of such rates, for the support and repair of the church and burial ground of the said parish," &c. "and for payment of the necessary expenses incurred by the churchwardens of the parish in the execution of their offices, to be called 'The Church Rate;' and another of such rates, for defraying the expenses incurred in paving, lighting, watching, cleansing, watering, and otherwise improving the streets," &c. "within the said parish, and all other expenses incident thereto or connected therewith, and for defraying any other expenses necessarily

men of the said parish under the provisions of that act, and the said vestrymen are the only proper persons who ought to appoint such collector in and for the said parish.

It appeared, on affidavit in support of the rule, that after the passing of the above local act, and in pursuance of it, a collector appointed by the vestrymen collected the poor's rate until 25th *March* 1836, when, by virtue of a warrant of the commissioners, dated *February* 22d, 1836, the parish was, with others mentioned in the warrant, formed into a union, called the *Strand* Union. And that, by orders and regulations of the commis-

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The Poor Law
Commissioners,
In the Matter
of the *STRAND*
Union.

necessarily incurred in the execution of this act, and not herein particularly mentioned, to be called 'The Improvement Rate;' such last-mentioned rate not to exceed 3s. in the pound of the yearly value of such houses or other premises."

Sect. 60 enacts, That in case any person charged with any rate under this act shall refuse or neglect to pay, "after demand made by the collector for the time being," it shall be lawful for any justice of the peace for *Middlesex*, and he is required, to summon every person so charged, and not having paid, "on oath being made before such justice by the collector for the time being of his having attended at the place of abode of such person," to appear, at a time and place &c., before any justice for the county; and it shall be lawful for any person appointed to collect and receive such rates, or for any person appointed by such summons, to serve such summons &c., and if the party shall refuse or neglect to attend, or shall attend and not shew that he is not chargeable, he shall pay the rate and costs; and in case of default, the justice is required, on proof as in the clause mentioned, to grant a warrant "authorising and directing such collector or any constable to levy such rate" &c. "by distress" &c. Sect. 61 empowers the collector or collectors to demand and receive the rate forty-five days before the quarter-day on which they would otherwise be payable, and in case of non-payment to enforce the payment as in case of default at the quarter-day. Sect. 62 gives the collector power of recovery by distress in the case of persons beginning to remove &c. without paying arrears, including the rate for the current quarter. Sect. 63 enacts that, in the case of any person quitting his premises without paying the rates, "it shall be lawful for any person appointed to collect any such rates," by warrant &c. (he making oath that he suspects such person hath removed his goods), to distrain and sell the goods of such person in any county, city, or place to which he shall have removed, as if he had continued within the jurisdiction of this act.

sioners,

1839.

—
The QUEEN
against
The Poor Law
Commissioners,
In the Matter
of the STRAND
Union.

sioners, dated 7th *March* 1836, addressed to the guardians of the *Strand* Union, then about to be formed, the commissioners, among other things, directed the guardians to appoint a collector of rates for the parishes within the union. This was done, and the collector proceeded to collect rates in the parish of *St. Paul*. But the vestrymen of *St. Paul*, being advised that the commissioners had not, and that they themselves had, jurisdiction to appoint such collector for their parish, appointed Mr. *Coghill*; and the present application was made in his name, for the purpose of bringing up the said orders and regulations of the commissioners, in order that so much of them as related to the appointment by the guardians of a collector for the parish of *St. Paul* might be quashed as illegal. In *Michaelmas* term, 1839 (a),

Sir J. Campbell, Attorney-General, *Sir W. W. Follett*, *Wightman*, and *Tomlinson* shewed cause. First, if the local act does not prevent, the commissioners might lawfully direct the guardians of the *Strand* Union to appoint a collector for the parishes of that union, including *St. Paul*. The power is given by sect. 46 of stat. 4 & 5 W. 4. c. 76., which enacts "That it shall be lawful for the said commissioners, as and when they shall see fit, by order under their hands and seal, to direct the overseers or guardians of any parish or union, or of so many parishes or unions as the said commissioners may in such order specify and declare to be united for the purpose only of appointing and paying officers, to appoint such paid officers with such qualifications as the said commissioners shall think necessary for superin-

(a) November 15th. Before Lord Denman C. J., *Patteson*, *Williams*, and *Coleridge* Js.

tending

tending or assisting in the administration of the relief and employment of the poor, and for the examining and auditing, allowing or disallowing of accounts in such parish or union, or united parishes, and otherwise carrying the provisions of this act into execution." Sect. 109, in explaining the term "officer," expressly mentions a "collector" as comprehended in it; and a collector is a person employed, within the purport of sect. 46, in "superintending or assisting in the administration of the relief" "of the poor." The object of sect. 46 was, that the collection of poor-rates, which, before the act, was entrusted to overseers or to persons appointed under local acts, might, on the formation of unions, be conducted more uniformly, regularly, and economically. A general control over the management of the poor is given to the commissioners by sects. 15 and 21: it may be exercised for the purpose of forming unions under sect. 26; and the only question here is, whether, having the power to form a union, they have also power to direct the appointment of this description of officer within it. The two sections first cited shew that they have; and this construction of the act is confirmed by sect. 48, which empowers the commissioners "as and when they shall think proper, by order under their hands and seal, either upon or without any suggestion or complaint in that behalf from the overseers or guardians of any parish or union, to remove any master of any workhouse, or assistant overseer, or other paid officer of any parish or union whom they shall deem unfit for or incompetent to discharge the duties of any such office, or who shall at any time refuse or wilfully neglect to obey and carry into effect any of the rules, orders, regulations, or bye laws of the said commissioners." And sect. 95 imposes a penalty

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The Poor Law
Commissioners,
In the Matter
of the STRAND
Union.

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The Poor Law
Commissioners,
In the Matter
of the STRAND
Union.

on any "overseer" or "other officer of any parish or union" who shall wilfully disobey the orders of justices and guardians in carrying the rules, orders, and regulations of the commissioners into execution. Secondly, the commissioners are not precluded from appointing a collector for one parish of a union by the circumstance of that parish having already a local act for the management of its poor. It was held in *Rex v. The Poor Law Commissioners, In the Matter of the Whitechapel Union (a)*, that the commissioners might form parishes into a union, although one district of the proposed union had a board established by statute for the government of its poor. It seems clearly to follow that under the same circumstances they may appoint a union collector. It is reasonable, if the power to form a union exists, that the incidents of a union should follow, and that local acts, so far as they are inconsistent with the general arrangement, should be superseded. The Legislature cannot have meant that, where the commissioners form a union of parishes, a district of the union should become as it were an island within it, by means of a local act. The effect of stat. 5 & 6 W. 4. c. 76. s. 46. is, that the power of the overseers to appoint a collector where there is no local act, and that of the vestrymen where there is such an act, must, on direction given by the commissioners, be exercised by the guardians. If the appointments of the union collector and of a collector under the local act be incompatible, the latter must be superseded. But there appears no reason that the union collector, in a case like the present, should not observe the provisions of a local statute, so far as he acts for a

(a) 6 A. & E. 34.

district governed by such a statute : or, if there be independent functions which a local collector may exercise, and a union collector cannot, a local collector may, perhaps, continue to be employed in such functions.

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The Poor Law
Commissioners,
In the Matter
of the STRAND
Union.

Thesiger and Channell, contra. By sect. 19 of the local act, the vestrymen of the parish of *St. Paul* are empowered to appoint such officers as they shall think proper for carrying that act into execution ; to suspend or displace such officers, and to appoint others, and to pay such salaries as they shall think reasonable to the said officers ; and they are required " to take sufficient security from every treasurer, collector, or other receiver of money, to be appointed under this act, for the faithful execution of his office." And sect. 55 enacts that certain rates, one of which is the poor rate, shall be assessed once or oftener in every year upon the tenants and occupiers of houses, &c., within the parish, by the said vestrymen. Stat. 4 & 5 W. 4. c. 76. does not give the poor law commissioners any authority for the purpose of assessing rates in parishes not incorporated in unions ; and where they cannot control the assessment it is reasonable to conclude that they cannot appoint the collector. The preamble of the act, sect. 1, shews the general intention to have been that the commissioners should manage, not the collection of funds, but the administration of them for the relief of the poor ; and the same purpose is clearly disclosed in sect. 15, which serves as a guide to the construction of the whole act on this subject. It is true that sects. 33, 34, 35, enable the guardians of any union, with the approbation of the commissioners, to agree that the parishes of such union shall be considered as one parish for the

1839.

**The QUEEN
against
The Poor Law
Commissioners,
In the Matter
of the STRAND
Union.**

purposes of settlement and of rating, to ascertain the value of property in the several parishes of the union, and to assess the parishes in respect of such property, for the purpose of rating; and sect. 35 enacts that rates grounded on such assessment shall be made, allowed, published, and recovered in the same manner as poor rates now are. But those are rates to be made by the parishes so united: it does not follow that the commissioners have any power over the rates of a single parish within the union which continues to be governed, as to rating, by a statute of its own; and it would require very strong words in the general act to take the power of appointing a collector from those who continue to levy the rates, and to whom, by the local statute, such collector is to give security. The power given to the commissioners by stat. 4 & 5 W. 4. c. 76. s. 46., as to the appointment of officers, and the security to be taken from them, relates only to such officers as shall be thought necessary "for superintending or assisting in the administration of the relief and employment of the poor," and the other purposes specified in that clause, not for the collection of rates; and, if so, the power of removal given by sect. 48 must have the same limit: the officers whom they may remove must be those whom they have power to appoint. Sect. 109 is relied upon; but the use of an interpretation clause is to explain, not to enact; and the mention of a collector in that clause cannot give to previous sections an effect inconsistent with their own language. No instance can be shewn, in stat. 4 & 5 W. 4. c. 76., where authority is given to the commissioners over the assessment of rates in a single parish. Inconveniencies have been suggested

gested as resulting from the exemption of the single parish, which thus, it is said, becomes an insulated district in the union; but if that parish retains the power of assessing its own rates the authority which it preserves over its collectors will not clash with the general powers exercised over the union. On the other hand, it would be very inconvenient that those who are still to levy the rates should not keep the power of appointing and taking security from the collector, who at present receives under the local act not only the poor rate but the two other rates levied annually under sect. 55. The collector has peculiar and important functions to exercise on behalf of the vestrymen under stat. 10 G. 4. c. lxviii. Sect. 60 points out very particularly the course to be pursued for recovering rates due under that act, and not paid on demand, in which the collector is made chiefly instrumental; by the same section he is authorised to enforce the process for levying such rates by distress; and by sect. 63 he may do so, in certain cases, even out of the parish. The observation of Coleridge J., in *Rex v. The Poor Law Commissioners, In the Matter of the Parish of St. Pancras (a)*, applies strongly here. "We are dealing with a statute which has reference, not so much to the common law, as to a large number of previous statutes;" "its general intent is in accordance with them, except where it marks out in express language their partial repeal or modification. I find it therefore more difficult to adopt that construction which supposes an intent to repeal them, as to other important but unspecified provisions, by implica-

1839.

—
The QUEEN
against
The Poor Law
Commissioners,
In the Matter
of the STRAND
Union.

(a) 6 A. & E. 1. See p. 8.

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The Poor Law
Commissioners,
In the Matter
of the STRAND
Union.

tion." And the language of Lord *Kenyon*, in *Williams v. Pritchard* (a), there cited, is to a similar effect.

Cur. adv. vult.

LORD DENMAN C. J. now delivered the judgment of the Court. After stating the nature of the application, his Lordship said :

The order was resisted on the part of the vestrymen of *St. Paul's Covent Garden*, on account of a local act of parliament which gave them power to appoint a collector with certain local privileges. We have entertained considerable doubts upon the subject ; and have at length come to the conclusion, upon a collation of the sections of the act of parliament, that the order of the Poor Law Commissioners cannot be sustained. We think that, at least till the union is made perfect for the purpose of rating (b), there is no power to require that the guardians shall appoint a collector to act in a separate parish under the circumstances stated. We have thought it right to deliver this opinion as soon as we had completely formed it, on account of the inconvenience alleged to arise from the question remaining undecided.

Rule absolute (c).

(a) 4 T. R. 2.

(b) See stat. 4 & 5 W. 4. c. 76. s. 34. It was assumed, throughout the argument, that the parishes were not united for the purpose of rating.

(c) See the next case.

1839.

The following case, decided in *Easter* term 1839, may conveniently be added here.

The QUEEN *against* The Poor Law Commissioners.

In the Matter of the CAMBRIDGE Union.

Monday,
May 6th, 1839.

THESIGER moved for a rule to shew cause why a certiorari should not issue to bring up, for the purpose of its being quashed, an order of the commissioners, dated *November 3d, 1836*, requiring the guardians of the poor of the *Cambridge Union* to appoint a collector or collectors of the poor-rates of such of the parishes comprised in the Union as the guardians might deem to require a collector, and report such appointments to the commissioners, that they might approve or disallow the same (a). This application was made at the instance of *John Glasscock*, a rate-payer of *St. Andrew the Less*, one of the above parishes. The guardians had (in *December 1837*) appointed one *Smith* collector for *St. Andrew the Less*, in obedience to the order; which appointment the commissioners confirmed. Afterwards (*April 1838*) the inhabitants of that parish in vestry appointed one *Brown* assistant overseer, under stat. 59 G. 3. c. 12. s. 7., and determined and specified, among the duties to be done by him, that he should collect and receive the poor-rates. The appointment was confirmed by two justices. The collector appointed by the commissioners had sub-

Where the Poor Law Commissioners, by order under stat. 4 & 5 W. 4. c. 76., s. 26., form several parishes into a union, but not for the purpose of rating, they cannot, by order under sect. 46, appoint a collector of poor rates for any parish or parishes of such union.

(a) See the material parts of the order set out at the end of the case, p. 923. note (a), post.

1839.

**The QUEEN.
against
The Poor Law
Commissioners,
In the Matter
of the
CAMBRIDGE
Union.**

sequently resigned; and they were about to appoint another when this application was made. The grounds of motion (stated in a notice to the commissioners, pursuant to stat. 4 & 5 W. 4. c. 76. s. 106.) were, that the duties of a collector of rates did not come within the description of the objects or purposes for which stat. 4 & 5 W. 4. c. 76. s. 46. authorises the commissioners to direct an appointment of paid officers; that the appointment of such collector is not authorised or directed by that statute: and that, the inhabitants in vestry having elected an assistant overseer, and determined and specified that he should receive and collect the poor-rates, and two justices having by warrant appointed him assistant overseer for the purposes aforesaid under stat. 59 G. 3. c. 12., the duties of collecting and receiving such rates were now solely vested in him by such appointment and the last-mentioned statute.

Thesiger contended that the powers given to the commissioners by stat. 4 & 5 W. 4. c. 76. s. 15. had relation only to the actual management of the poor, and not to the mode of appointing any particular description of managers; and he cited the judgment of *Williams J.* in *Rex v. The Poor Law Commissioners, In the Matter of the Parish of St. Pancras (a)*. He further contended that the power of appointing a collector was not given by sect. 46, because that section, while it empowers the commissioners to direct the nomination of paid officers, expressly describes the functions of such officers, which do not include those of a collector: that, although sect. 48 gives the commissioners authority to remove assistant overseers and other paid officers, it leaves the power of appointing successors to "the persons competent in that behalf;" that is, the parties, who-

(a) 6 A. & E. 15.

ever they may have been, who appointed the displaced officer: that *Regina v. The Poor Law Commissioners, In the Matter of the Strand Union (a)*, was a case directly applicable, the appointment of an assistant overseer under stat. 59 G. 3. c. 12. being equivalent to the appointment of a collector under a local act, which, in that case, was held not to be superseded: that the present case might have been different if the parishes of the union had been united for the purposes of rating, but that had not been done (*b*); and that, in reason, the persons who laid the rate were the proper parties to appoint the collector.

1839.

—
The QUEEN
against
The Poor Law
Commissioners,
In the Matter
of the
CAMBRIDGE
Union.

The Court granted a rule nisi, against which

Sir J. Campbell, Attorney-General, Kelly, and Tomlinson, shewed cause in the first instance (*c*). The last cited case does not apply, because the decision there turned upon a local act giving peculiar powers, which, in the opinion of the Court, could not be taken away without an express enactment. The system established by the present order is convenient, and not liable to objection. The collector is to get in all monies payable on account of the poor-rates, or as rents, or arising from any of the sources of income set forth in another order of the commissioners; and to pay over to the treasurer of the union, to be placed to the account of the churchwardens and overseers of the parishes respectively, the monies collected on behalf of such parishes. [*Coleridge J.* How are the guardians to appoint a collector to get in the whole fund, when they are entitled only to a part of it?] He is to pay over the money to the treasurer. The

(a) *Antè*, p. 901.

(b) It was taken as conceded that the parishes were not so united.

(c) See stat. 4 & 5 W. 4. c. 76. s. 106.

treasurer,

1899.

The QUEEN
against
The Poor Law
Commissioners,
In the Matter
of the
CAMBRIDGE
Union.

treasurer, quoad hoc, is the officer of the churchwardens and overseers. [*Patteson J.* He is not under their control.] He is to place the monies received to their credit, and to pay on their account all checks and drafts signed by them; and the monies paid to their credit are to be applied to the same purposes as if collected by them. [*Patteson J.* If they do not choose to have him for their servant, can the commissioners make him so notwithstanding? *Coleridge J.* The order says that he is to pay the monies collected on behalf of the parishes to the account of the churchwardens and overseers. What account is that?] The guardians are made bankers to the union; and these funds are like a separate account at the bank in their name. The treasurer would be answerable to them for the funds being regularly placed to account. [*Patteson J.* I do not see that any thing in the act makes him so. *Coleridge J.* Suppose the overseers want the money for the county rate, and the guardians for the poor rate; whom is the treasurer to obey?] This line of objection applies to the duties of the collector, not the appointment itself; and the notice given under sect. 106 does not apprise the commissioners of it. And, if it prevailed, it would only set aside part of the order. [*Patteson J.* The objections serve to test the general validity of the order.] The words of sect. 46, describing the purposes for which the commissioners may direct officers to be appointed, are very large: "for superintending or assisting in the administration of the relief and employment of the poor, and for the examining and auditing, allowing or disallowing of accounts in such parish or union, or united parishes, and otherwise carrying the provisions of this act into execution." [*Patteson J.* Is collecting the rate administering relief and employment?]

The

The term "administration" of relief cannot be confined to the act of delivering supplies to the poor. The master of a workhouse is clearly within the intention of the clause; yet, though he contracts for the supplies, he does not, strictly speaking, administer them. On a narrow interpretation of the words, the commissioners could not direct that a clerk to the guardians should be appointed. At any rate, the words "otherwise carrying the provisions of this act into execution" will include the duties of a collector. [*Patteson J.* Is there any provision in the whole act, which has to do with the collecting of rates?] No direct provision; but if a control over the collectors be necessary to a due administration of the authority conferred on the guardians the act must be taken to confer it.

It seems evident that stat. 4 & 5 *W. 4. c. 76. s. 46.* was intended, where its powers should be exercised, to repeal stat. 59 *G. 3. c. 12. s. 7.*, as to the appointment of assistant overseers; and if the legislature intended, in those cases, to give the power of appointing assistant overseers to the guardians, under the direction of the commissioners, it may be concluded that the same was meant as to collectors. The words of stat. 4 & 5 *W. 4. c. 76. s. 46.* are extensive enough, if stat. 59 *G. 3. c. 12. s. 7.* did not exist, to warrant the commissioners in directing the appointment of an assistant overseer; for he would be a person "assisting in the administration of the relief and employment of the poor." But, the provisions of stat. 59 *G. 3. c. 12. s. 7.* being applicable only to single parishes, it was contemplated by the later act that the commissioners should direct the appointment of assistant overseers for parishes or unions, the appointment being in the latter case in the guardians.

1839.

—
The QUEEN
against
The Poor Law
Commissioners,
In the Matter
of the
CAMBRIDGE
Union.

By

1839.
 ———
 The QUEEN
 against
 The Poor Law
 Commissioners,
 In the Matter
 of the
 CAMBRIDGE
 Union.

By sect. 48 of stat. 4 & 5 W. 4. c. 76. the commissioners are empowered to remove paid officers of any parish or union, among whom the assistant overseer is specifically mentioned: and likewise "to require from time to time the persons competent in that behalf to appoint a fit and proper person" in the room of such officer. Now such appointment, in the case of an assistant overseer, cannot be an appointment in pursuance of stat. 59 G. 3. c. 12. s. 7., because the nomination and election of such overseer are voluntary acts. The compulsory appointment mentioned in the 48th section of 4 & 5 W. 4. c. 76. can only be an appointment under sect. 46 of that statute, and by the persons there named. The power to remove an assistant overseer, which is given in terms by sect. 48, implies a power to direct the appointment of such an officer under the 46th section. And if the guardians, directed by the commissioners, may originally appoint an assistant overseer under sect. 46 for a parish, or union, they may also, under the same clause, order that part of the duty of an assistant overseer which relates to the collection of rates, and no other, to be performed by an assistant overseer for an assigned district, which would be in effect to order the appointment of a collector. [*Coleridge J.* Supposing that the commissioners may direct an assistant overseer to be appointed, his functions would be such only as might be specified in his warrant.] If he had been originally appointed to perform all the usual functions of an overseer, the commissioners, under sect. 48, might order him to be re-appointed for those purposes. [*Coleridge J.* If he were re-appointed for the purpose of collecting poor-rates, the question would still be whether that was a purpose for which they might direct

direct an officer to be appointed under sect. 46.] The meaning given to "officer" in the interpretation clause, s. 109., supports the construction adopted by the commissioners. [*Patteson* J. Such clauses generally make more confusion than they prevent. But this interpretation would be satisfied by confining the term "collector" to the case of parishes united for the purpose of rating.] The primary object of this statute undoubtedly was the administration of relief; but it also provides for matters of fiscal regulation, as in sects. 21, 23, 24, 25, 35, 47. And sect. 46 empowers the commissioners to determine "the amount and nature of the security to be given by such of the said officers" appointed under that section, as they shall think ought to give security. [*Patteson* J. If the guardians appoint a collector under this section, they will take security for duties which are to be discharged, not to them, but to other persons.] The treasurer would be the proper obligee; and, if a penalty were recovered, he would hold the money in trust.

Thesiger (with whom was *Channell*), contra, was stopped by the Court.

LORD DENMAN C. J. This case is very clear. When a similar motion was before us in *Regina v. The Poor Law Commissioners In the Matter of the Strand Union* (a), we looked minutely into the case with reference to this point. The words of stat. 4 & 5 W. 4. c. 76. s. 46. are not sufficient to give the authority contended for. The power which that section confers on the commissioners in general terms, "to direct the overseers or guardians of any parish or union, or of so many parishes or unions

1839.

—
The QUEEN
against
The Poor Law
Commissioners,
In the Matter
of the
CAMBRIDGE
Union.

(a) *Ante*, p. 901.

1839.
 ———
 The QUEEN
against
 The Poor Law
 Commissioners,
 In the Matter
 of the
 CAMBRIDGE
 Union.

as the said commissioners may in such order specify and declare to be united for the purpose only of appointing and paying officers, to appoint such paid officers," is restricted by the words which follow, "with such qualifications as the said commissioners shall think necessary," not for the general administration of the poor law, but "for superintending or assisting in the administration of the relief and employment of the poor, and for the examining and auditing, allowing or disallowing of accounts in such parish or union, or united parishes, and otherwise carrying the provisions of this act into execution." This specification, following the more general words, binds down the commissioners, in ordering an appointment, to the purposes particularly mentioned. The act does not any where refer to the collection of rates; and by the true rules of construction the term "officers," in sect. 46, must be confined to those whose functions are of the kind there pointed out. The argument on the mention of assistant-overseers in sect. 48 is an ingenious attempt to suggest something which the legislature has not thought proper to enact.

LITLEDALE J. The words "paid officers," in sect. 46, might include collectors; but we cannot say that it does so, if (as the fact is) the word "collector" nowhere occurs in the act, and the functions of a collector are not necessary for the purposes mentioned in sect. 46. And they are not necessary for "superintending or assisting in the administration of the relief and employment of the poor," or for the "examining and auditing, allowing or disallowing of accounts" in the parish or union. If the parishes had been united for the purpose of rating,

rating, the section might perhaps have applied ; but that is not the case. In the interpretation clause, sect. 109, " officer " is said to mean " collector ; " but it does not follow that a collector is one of those officers whose appointment the commissioners have a general power to direct for the purposes of this act. In statutes where the legislature has intended to provide for the collecting of rates, express enactments have been introduced on that subject, as in stat. 22 G. 3. c. 83. (a), and the *St. Paul's Covent Garden* act, 10 G. 4. c. lxviii. (b).

1839.

—
The QUEEN
against
The Poor Law
Commissioners,
In the Matter
of the
CAMBRIDGE
Union.

PATTESON J. The *Cambridge* Union is evidently constituted under the 26th section of stat. 4 & 5 W. 4. c. 76., and under that only. It is not an union for purposes of settlement under sect. 33, nor for purposes of rating under sect. 34, nor for the purpose only of appointing and paying officers declared to be so by the order in question, under the 46th section, which latter sort of union, however, I am unable to comprehend. Taking it then to be an union under sect. 26, the latter words of that section will be found to be very material : " but, notwithstanding such union and classification, each of the said parishes shall be separately chargeable with and liable to defray the expense of its own poor, whether relieved in or out of any such workhouse : " for it shews that the funds of one parish are in no way mixed with those of another by reason of their forming part of the same union. The 15th section is relied on by the commissioners, as shewing that the administration of relief to the poor, according to the existing laws, is to be in all cases subject to their direction and control. No doubt

(a) Sect. 7.

(b) *Antd*, p. 902, note (a).

that

1839.

—
The QUEEN
against
The Poor Law
Commissioners,
In the Matter
of the
CAMBRIDGE
Union.

that is so ; but it is remarkable that that section enumerates very many matters, in respect of which the commissioners are to make rules, orders, and regulations, amongst which matters the poor-rates are not mentioned ; and throughout the act no authority whatever is given to the commissioners or to the guardians of any union to interfere with the making or collecting the poor-rates in any parish. There is not, indeed, so far as I have been able to find, any express exception in that respect, as there is in stat. 22 G. 3. c. 83., commonly called *Gilbert's act*, which (sect. 7) prevented the guardians there mentioned from interfering in the collection of poor's rates ; but there is a total omission of any enactments respecting those rates, which cannot have been accidental. I think, therefore, that the Legislature intended to leave this matter as it stood before. The arguments urged to the contrary go too far ; for, if the commissioners might direct the guardians to appoint a collector, I do not see why they might not also direct them to appoint persons who should assess the parishes, though not united for the purpose of rating. The 21st section is also referred to as containing general powers ; but on examination it will be found to relate only to workhouses. The 48th section is also referred to, which gives power to the commissioners to remove any paid officer of any parish whom they shall deem unfit for, or incompetent to discharge, the duties of his office, and to require from time to time the *persons competent in that behalf* to appoint a fit and proper person in his room. No doubt can be entertained as to the power of the commissioners to remove the collector of *St. Andrew the Less* under that section, if they deemed him unfit or incompetent ; but it is not suggested that this order proceeds

proceeds on any such ground; and, if it did, it is equally clear to my apprehension that they must require a fit and proper person to be appointed in his room by the persons competent in that behalf; and that the competent persons to appoint under that section are plainly those who made the original appointment, that is, the parishioners, and not the guardians of the union. If this be not so, the commissioners need only remove an officer, to change the persons who are to make the appointment. The 48th section has therefore no bearing at all upon the present question.

We come then to the 46th section, under which this order is evidently made, and upon the construction of which its validity must after all depend. That section empowers the commissioners to direct overseers or guardians of any parish or union to appoint paid officers. Had the clause merely authorised them to give such direction, without specifying any purposes for which the appointments should be made, the case would have been different. But the purposes are pointed out; and we cannot stretch the enacting words. The appointment of officers is to be for certain purposes. First, "for superintending or assisting in the administration of the relief and employment of the poor." Collecting the rates does not come under that head; it would be an abuse of language to say so. Secondly, "for the examining and auditing, allowing or disallowing of accounts in such parish or union or united parishes." Collecting the rates does not come under that head. Thirdly, "otherwise carrying the provisions of *this* act into execution." The whole of the case turns upon the meaning of those words. Now these general words, following particular ones, are to be construed with reference to those parti-

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The Poor Law
Commissioners,
In the Matter
of the
CAMBRIDGE
Union.

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The Poor Law
Commissioners,
In the Matter
 of the
CAMBRIDGE
Union.

cular ones, and to be applied only to things ejusdem generis, as is usually the case. And it seems to me clear that they cannot be applied to the collecting of the poor-rates. That collection is not and cannot be made under the provisions of *this* act. This act contains no provisions whatever applicable to the collection of the poor-rate: it omits, as I have before observed, and I should say studiously omits, all such provisions: the collection is and must be made under the former existing acts. It seems to me that the collection of the poor-rate under the general laws cannot be said to be in any shape carrying the provisions of *this* act into execution; and consequently that the appointment of a paid officer to make such collection was not within the powers conferred by the 46th section. If the union were one for the purpose of rating, the case would be different, because the rate to be collected would then be a rate for the whole union, and made under this act; for it could not be made otherwise than under the act. And such a case is sufficient to shew that the general words in question have something to operate upon, as well as that part of the interpretation clause, sect. 109, which says that the word "officer" shall include "collector."

For these reasons, I am of opinion that the order cannot be supported, and that this rule must be made absolute.

COLERIDGE J. We gave much consideration to this point in the case of the *Strand* Union, though our judgment there was delivered shortly. It is conceded that the power here claimed for the commissioners is not given in direct terms; but it is said that the general scope of the act requires it. There cannot be any safer mode of ascertaining this than to look at sect. 15, which
 limits

limits and defines the general powers of the commissioners. By that section "the administration of relief to the poor," "according to the existing laws, or such laws as shall be in force at the time being," is made subject to their direction and control. The subject-matter of their functions is the administration of relief, but according to the existing laws. When it is argued that a subsequent clause of the statute repeals stat. 59 G. 3. c. 12. s. 7. by implication, we are met by these words, which shew an intention to preserve former enactments; and I should therefore be slow in supposing that the forty-sixth section has the effect which has been ascribed to it. I was struck with the very ingenious argument by which Mr. *Tomlinson* endeavoured to shew, from sect. 48, that sect. 46 was a repeal of the prior statute as to assistant overseers; but the vice of the argument is this: "assistant overseer" may mean many or few things; the officer may have something or nothing to do with collecting rates or with administering relief. All the duties of such an officer are *pro re nata*. If the commissioners have power to remove an assistant overseer, it does not follow that they could appoint an assistant overseer who is to collect rates. The argument must, then, come back to sect. 46; and on that section it is clear that they have not authority to direct the appointment of an assistant overseer under circumstances like the present.

The present order, therefore, is bad, because it goes beyond the power given to the commissioners by stat. 4 & 5 W. 4. c. 76.

Rule absolute (*a*).

(*a*) The order of the commissioners was set forth on affidavit; and the Attorney-General stated, in the course of argument, that a similar order had been sent to most of the unions formed by the commissioners.

1839.

—
The QUEEN
against
The Poor Law
Commissioners,
In the Matter
of the
CAMBRIDGE
Union.

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The Poor Law
Commissioners,
In the Matter
of the
CAMBRIDGE
Union.

"*Cambridge Union. Know all men*" &c., "that we, the Poor Law Commissioners," &c., "in pursuance and execution of the powers and authorities vested in us under and by virtue of the statute" &c. (4 & 5 W. 4. c. 76.), "do hereby order and direct, That the guardians of the *Cambridge Union* shall, within one month from the date of this order, appoint one or more fit and proper persons to be the collector or collectors of the poor-rates of such of the several parishes comprised therein as the said guardians may deem to require a collector, and shall, as soon as conveniently may be after such appointments, report the same to us the said Poor Law Commissioners, in order that we may approve or disallow the same, or give such other directions thereon as the case may require. And in case and so often as any person so appointed shall die, or resign, or be removed, the said board of guardians shall, as soon as conveniently may be after such death, resignation, or removal, proceed in like manner to a new appointment." (Then followed a regulation for the payment of such collector by poundage.)

"And we do hereby further order and direct that the following shall be the duties of such collectors.

"1. To assist the churchwardens and overseers of the several parishes comprised within the said union for which they shall be respectively appointed collectors, in making up the assessments, filling up receipts, keeping all books, and making all returns, which relate to the collection of rates, rents, or other monies payable on account of the poor:

"2. To collect all monies payable on account of the poor-rates, or as rents, or arising from any of the sources of income of such parishes as aforesaid, set forth in our order for keeping the books of receipts and payments.

"3. To pay over weekly, or oftener if required, and whenever the sum in their hands shall amount to 50*l.*, to the treasurer of the union, to be placed to the account of the churchwardens and overseers of such parishes respectively, the monies collected on behalf of such parishes respectively, but to make no other payment or disbursement whatsoever.

"4. At all times when required by the churchwardens and overseers of such parishes respectively, to produce the rate-books and other account-books in their custody relating to such parishes, and balance the said rates, and to furnish the said churchwardens and overseers respectively with a true list of all defaulters in the payment of rates and other dues to such parishes, and, under the direction of the guardians, to institute and attend to proceedings against such defaulters.

"5. To attend, when required, the meetings of the board of guardians, with the several receipt check-books, and the rate-book in collection, and when and as soon as any rate-book is closed, to hand over the same to the clerk, and all the receipt-books belonging thereto, and generally to observe and fulfil all lawful orders and directions of the said board of guardians, and likewise the rules, orders, and regulations relating to the said union
already

already or to be hereafter issued by the Poor Law Commissioners for *England and Wales*.

"And we do hereby further order and direct, That the persons so to be appointed as aforesaid shall, before they enter on the performance of the duties of their office, give such security for the due and proper discharge of the same as shall appear to the said guardians to be necessary and fitting.

"And we do hereby further order and direct, That the treasurer of the said union shall receive all monies tendered to be paid to the churchwardens and overseers of any parish in the said union for which a collector or collectors shall be appointed under this order, and shall place the monies so paid to the credit of the churchwardens and overseers.

"And that the said treasurer shall pay and satisfy out of any monies for the time being in his hands, on account of the churchwardens and overseers of any such parishes as aforesaid, all checks and drafts signed by the majority of the churchwardens and overseers of such parish.

"And we do hereby further order and declare, That the said monies so paid to the credit of the churchwardens and overseers of any such parish as aforesaid shall be applied to such and the same purposes as the same would by law have been applicable to in case the same had been collected by the churchwardens and overseers.

"And we do hereby further order, That if the guardians shall deem that any one or more of the said parishes shall require such services as are usually performed by an assistant overseer, they may appoint the person so appointed as collector for such parish or parishes to perform the duties of an assistant overseer for such parish or parishes accordingly. Provided always, and we do hereby order, direct, and declare, that those parishes in which either of the churchwardens or overseers is willing and desirous to collect the rates shall not be deemed to require a collector."

(Then followed regulations for the churchwardens and overseers in parishes not deemed to require a collector.)

1839.

The QUEEN
against
The Poor Law
Commissioners,
In the Matter
of the
CAMBRIDGE
Union.

See stat. 2 & 3 *Vict. c. 84. s. 2.*, giving validity to orders made by the Commissioners before 26th *August*, 1839, (and not rescinded or quashed before 6th *May*, 1839,) for the appointment of collectors by overseers or guardians.

1839.

Wednesday,
February 6th.

HEMMING *against* TRENERY and MALIM.

Assumpsit on a written guarantee, set forth in the declaration. Plea, Non Assumpsit. On the trial, the instrument appeared to have been interlined, so as materially to alter its effect; but, without the interlining, it corresponded to the declaration. The jury found that the interlineation was made after the instrument was executed.

Held, that plaintiff was entitled to the verdict, whether or not he was privy to the alteration; the effect of the alteration, if any, being only to discharge or modify the original contract, and therefore constituting a defence which required to be shewn by way of confession and avoidance.

ASSUMPSIT. The declaration stated that, whereas, before the making of the promise &c. next mentioned, to wit 21st *August* 1833, defendants were sureties for the due performance of certain contracts for the building of certain works by one *Robert Streather* within a certain limited time, to wit within three months from the day aforesaid, and, it being then necessary that defendants, or *R. S.*, or some or one of them, should procure bricks for the building of the said works, and plaintiff being then a maker and seller of bricks, defendants, well knowing the same, then wrote and delivered unto plaintiff the following order in writing; viz., "*Mr. H. K. Hemming*. Please to deliver to *Mr. Robert Streather*, for the completion of his contracts at *Deptford* and *Woolwich* yards, 500,000 best stock bricks, to be delivered at the said dock-yards at 32s. per thousand; and we, as his sureties, do hereby consent that the proper officer, *Navy Office, Somerset House*, who shall or may have the payment of the contract when finished, shall and may stop the amount of such account for bricks delivered, and we do hereby agree to become guarantees for the payment of the same. Dated this 21st day of *August*, 1833:" which said order being so delivered to plaintiff, plaintiff then agreed with defendants to deliver the said bricks accordingly, and, in consideration that plaintiff would deliver to *R. S.* at the dock-yards &c., defendants undertook and promised plaintiff to guarantee the payment
of

of the same to him within a reasonable time after the same should be so delivered as aforesaid: averment that plaintiff, confiding &c., did afterwards, to wit on &c., deliver to *R. S.*, at the dock-yards, 500,000 best &c., at the rate of &c., amounting in the whole to a large sum &c., viz. 800*l.*; and, although a reasonable time for the payment of the same hath long elapsed since the delivery of the said bricks as aforesaid, *R. S.* (although often requested) hath not paid the said sum &c., whereof defendants then had notice: breach, that defendants have not paid plaintiff the said sum &c., although often requested; and the said sum remains wholly due &c.

There was a second count, setting out a similar instrument, except that the concluding words of it were stated to be, "for the payment of the same *to you when the amount of the contract is paid.* Dated" &c.; and the latter part of the count was modified to suit the instrument as last set out.

The defendants pleaded, severally, Non Assumpsit to the whole; and various special pleas to the second count, some of which were demurred to, and others led to issues of fact.

On the trial before Lord *Denman* C. J., at the sittings at *Westminster* after *Trinity* term 1836, the plaintiff put in an instrument, signed by *Streather* and the defendants as his sureties, which appeared to have been interlined. Without the interlineation, the instrument corresponded to that set forth in the first count; with the interlineation, to that set forth in the second. Conflicting evidence was given as to the circumstances under which the interlineation had been made, and upon the general facts of the case, which are not material to the point

1839.

 HEMMING
 against
 TANNERY.

1839.

HUMPHREY
against
TREVELYAN.

here decided (a). The Lord Chief Justice directed the jury to find for the plaintiff as to the first count, and for the defendants as to the second, on the pleas of non assumpsit, if they believed that the interlineation was made after the execution of the instrument by the parties; but, if they believed it to have been made before the execution, then, on these pleas, for the defendants as to the first count, and for the plaintiff as to the second. Verdict for the plaintiff as to so much of the pleas of non assumpsit as related to the first count; for the defendants as to so much of these pleas as related to the second count; for the plaintiff on all the other issues of fact.

In *Michaelmas* term 1836, Sir W. W. Follett obtained a rule nisi for a nonsuit or new trial, on the grounds, first, that, if the plaintiff was privy to the alteration even after the execution, he could not recover on the first count; secondly, that the verdict was against the weight of evidence. In *Hilary* term 1838 (b),

Sir J. Campbell, Attorney-General, and Archbold, shewed cause. It is immaterial whether the alteration did or did not vitiate the instrument, since, by the finding of the jury, it once existed as a good contract: for, supposing the instrument vitiated by subsequent alteration, the objection cannot be taken upon Non Assumpsit. By *R. Hil. 4 W. 4., Pleadings in Particular Actions*, l. 1. (c), that plea is to "operate only as a denial in fact of the express contract or promise alleged, or of the matters of

(a) As to the history of the transaction, see the judgment, post, p. 931.

(b) January 23d. Before Lord Denman C. J., Littledale, Williams, and Coleridge J.

(c) 5 B. & Ad. vii.

fact from which the contract or promise alleged may be implied by law;" and, by I. 3. (a), "all matters in confession and avoidance, including not only those by way of discharge, but those which shew the transaction to be either void or voidable in point of law, on the ground of fraud or otherwise, shall be specially pleaded." Cases decided before the new rules are inapplicable. Such is *Powell v. Divett* (b), where the plaintiff was held to be rightly non-suited on the ground that the instrument declared upon had been by his consent altered after being completed. Then a plea of non assumpsit raised the whole question. At present, the only question on such a plea is whether there was once a good contract, as found by the jury. A statutable illegality in the original contract must be pleaded, if a contract good at common law appear on the declaration; *Barnett v. Glossop* (c); and so must even a common law illegality, according to *Potts v. Sparrow* (d). The evidence here rather shews that the alteration was made by a stranger without authority; which, as Lord *Ellenborough* expresses himself in *Henfree v. Bromley* (e), is "a mere spoliation," and would not affect existing rights. [The argument on the evidence is omitted.] The decision in the Exchequer, *Hemming v. Trevery* (g), is inapplicable: there the plaintiff declared on the instrument in the altered form.

Sir *W. W. Follett*, contra. When the instrument was produced, apparently altered from its original state as described in the first count, it was for the plaintiff to shew under what circumstances the alteration took

(a) 5 B. & Ad. viii.

(b) 15 East, 29.

(c) 1 New Ca. 683.

(d) 1 New Ca. 594.

(e) 6 East, 309.

(g) 2 C. M. & R. 385. S. C. 5 Tyrwh. 887.

1839.

HEMMING
against
TREVERY.

1839.

HEMMING
against
TARNHAY.

place (a). It was not enough to shew that it was executed by both parties before the alteration. If the plaintiff afterwards altered it without the consent of the defendant, the whole contract was vitiated; if it was altered by mutual consent, the altered contract was substituted for the original one. In either case the contract existing between the parties was not that declared upon; and the plaintiff fails upon the issue on non assumpsit. "If a deed after execution be altered in a material place by rasure, interlineation, addition, &c. by the obligee himself, it shall be void; and the obligor may plead *non est factum*;" *Com. Dig. Fait*, (F 1.). And so it was said by the Court in *Cospey v. Turner* (b). Even if it be done for the benefit of the obligor, the deed is avoided: nor would the old deed remain good though the obligor assented; *Markham v. Gonaston* (c). *Powell v. Divett* (d), *Downes v. Richardson* (e), *Bowman v. Nichol* (g), are authorities for the defendant in this case. *Barnett v. Glossop* (h) and *Potts v. Sparrow* (i) cannot be maintained; *Johnson v. Dodgson* (k) is the other way. [Coleridge J. Those cases might be bad law, and yet the argument for the plaintiff here good: for the argument is that there once was a good instrument, which is declared on: in those cases the defence went to shew that the contracts were void ab initio. Lord Denman C. J. The Judges have never doubted that, in an action for slander, the defendant may shew a privileged communication under the general issue (l).] The plaintiff himself here puts

(a) See *Knight v. Clements*, 8 A. & E. 215. (b) *Cro. Eliz.* 800.

(c) *Cro. Eliz.* 626.

(d) 15 *East*, 29.

(e) 5 B. & Ald. 674.

(g) 5 T. R. 537.

(h) 1 *New Ca.* 683.

(i) 1 *New Ca.* 594.

(k) 3 M. & W. 653.

(l) See the cases collected in *Lillie v. Price*, 5 A. & E. 645. And see *Hayelden v. Staff*, 5 A. & E. 153.

in a contract different from that on which he declares. The effect of the whole might be, and, upon the evidence, appears to have been, that there was no contract at all up to the time of the alteration, but that the whole was in *feri*. The evidence clearly shews the plaintiff's knowledge of the alteration. [The argument as to this is omitted.] The case is the stronger, because the Court appears to have exceeded its jurisdiction in allowing the two counts; and, if the plaintiff had been confined to the second, there was a good answer, as appears from the case in the Exchequer, *Hemming v. Trenery* (a). And this shews the materiality of the alteration.

1839.

Hemming
against
Trenery.

Cur. adv. vult.

Lord DENMAN C. J. now delivered the judgment of the Court.

It appears that *Streather* had contracted to do certain works for government, and that the plaintiff, who was a manufacturer of bricks, engaged to supply a certain quantity of bricks to *Streather*, to assist him in the completion of the works, if the defendants would guarantee the payment for them under the terms agreed upon. An agreement in writing, containing the guarantee, was entered into and signed by the plaintiff and the defendants: the bricks were supplied by the plaintiff; but *Streather* did not pay him for them; and he therefore applied to the defendants, as the sureties, for payment; but they objected to pay, for the reasons given at the trial of the cause, but which it is not now material to advert to: and the plaintiff, on that refusal, brought the present action.

The contract of guarantee, which was given in evi-

(a) 2 C. M. & R. 385. S. C. 5 Tyrwh. 887.

dence

1839.

HEMMING
against
TRENER.

dence at the trial, was, in fact, interlined; and that interlineation stated a condition that the guarantee should only attach and be binding when the amount of the contract was paid to *Streather*. This condition, therefore, limited the responsibility of the defendants, and was for their benefit.

An action had been brought in the Exchequer on the contract as interlined; and that Court was of opinion (a) that the amount of the contract had not been paid to *Streather*, and that, consequently, the condition on which the guarantee was to attach had not arisen, and that the plaintiff was not entitled to recover.

The plaintiff has now brought an action in this Court: and he has two counts in the declaration; the first on the contract without the interlineation, treating the guarantee as an absolute guarantee; and the second count on the contract with the qualification in the condition.

The defendants have separately pleaded non assumpsit to the whole declaration, and also some special pleas which appear to apply to the last count only. The jury have found a verdict for the plaintiff on the non assumpsit to the first count, and for the defendants on the non assumpsit to the second count: and they have found for the plaintiff on all the special pleas; which last finding, however, is immaterial on the present inquiry. The counsel for the defendants have applied for leave to enter a nonsuit or for a new trial. As to the nonsuit, no leave appears to have been given; and indeed it is abandoned. As to a new trial, it is moved for as a verdict against evidence, and for a misdirection.

(a) *Hemming v. Trenery*, 2 C. M. & B. 385. S. C. 5 Tyrwh. 887.

The case, in the result, turns out to be thus. A contract is adduced in evidence, with an interlineation : if that interlineation was there before it was executed by the parties, that of course is the existing contract, and always was so ; and, if such was the state of things, the plaintiff cannot recover. The Court of Exchequer have decided against him as to the law arising out of such a contract ; and the jury have on this trial negatived the existence in fact of such a contract. But the jury have affirmed the existence of a contract without the interlineation.

Now, if the contract without the interlineation was signed by the plaintiff and defendants, it was then the actual existing contract of the parties, and would support the finding of the jury on the non assumpsit to the first count ; but, as to the evidence of this being so, one witness for the plaintiff states it, but two witnesses for the defendants state that the interlineation was made at the time it was written out, and before it was signed by the parties. It was therefore a question for the jury to which of the witnesses they would give credit. Supposing the witness for the plaintiff was believed, and that the jury had come to the right conclusion as to the fact, that the contract had been executed by both parties without the interlineation, and that it did really once exist as such a contract, yet, as it was exhibited to the jury with the interlineation, and therefore in an altered state from the original contract, the defendants contend that it ought to have been left to the jury to say by whom the alteration was made. 1st, Whether by consent of both parties ; 2dly, Whether by the plaintiff ; 3dly, Whether by the defendant ; 4thly, Whether by strangers, i. e. by persons who took a part in

1839.

HEMMING
against
TANNER.

1839.

HEMMING
against
TRENNY.

in these matters, and who might think that the agreement with the interlineation was what ought to bind the parties.

As to the first, if it was altered with the consent of both parties, the altered agreement would bind them, but would put an end to the original contract as in the first count. As to the second, if the alteration was made by the plaintiff without the consent of the defendants (though for their benefit), it would, according to the authorities cited, put an end to the original agreement. As to the third, if it was altered by the defendants without the consent of the plaintiff, it would have no effect, and would remain as it was originally. As to the fourth, if the alteration was not by the privity of the parties, it is not material to consider the general rules at present.

But, supposing the agreement to be vitiated by an interlineation, then comes the question, whether this is open under the new rules upon non assumpsit. For there was once a valid contract, which is avoided by some subsequent act; and therefore the question arises, whether it should not be pleaded. Here nothing was adduced to shew that the original contract was void in its inception. The issue was joined on the fact of its being executed. Now it was proved to have been executed. It was produced, indeed, at the trial, bearing on its face an alteration, which must have been made or sanctioned by the plaintiff; but that had been made after the execution. The promise, then, which the defendant denied, was established by the evidence; and, if he had the means of defending himself, it was by matter *ex post facto*.

The rule of *Hilary* term, 4 *W. 4.*, as to this, is, " In every

every species of assumpsit, all matters in confession and avoidance, including not only those by way of discharge, but those which shew the transaction to be either void or voidable in point of law, on the ground of fraud or otherwise, shall be specially pleaded" (a).

It appears to us that the defence arising from the alteration of the contract falls within the meaning of confessing and avoiding; for the defendant, on such a defence, confesses that he made the contract, but he avoids it by shewing that the contract was afterwards avoided by the alteration. This defence by confession and avoidance arises from matter of fact only, and operates as a discharge from the contract, rather than as shewing the transaction to be either void or voidable in point of law; because the transaction itself, which is the original, was neither void nor voidable in point of law. This we mention, because, if it operates as a discharge, it becomes unnecessary to consider the effect of the rule as to defences which arise as to matters of law, upon some of which a difference of opinion seems to be entertained by different judges, whether such defences may be set up on the general issue, or whether they must be pleaded, and as to which we may refer to the cases of *Barnett v. Glossop* (b), *Potts v. Sparrow* (c), and *Johnson v. Dodgson* (d).

But the Court was supposed to have assumed an extraordinary power in permitting several counts on the two inconsistent contracts; and the plaintiff to have taken a fraudulent advantage of that power by declaring in this Court on the general contract, after proceeding

1839.

HEMMING
against
TRENT.

(a) *Pleadings in Particular Actions*, I. 3. 5 B. & Ad. viii.

(b) 3 Dowl. Pr. C. 625. S. C. 1 New Ca. 633.

(c) 3 Dowl. Pr. C. 630. S. C. 1 New Ca. 594.

(d) 2 M. & W. 653.

1839.

HEMMING
against
TRENEER.

on the conditional one in the Exchequer. For our own part, we do not repeat the reasons that induced us to permit the insertion of two counts; but it is fair to remark that there is no censure applicable to the plaintiff for claiming under both contracts, which will not equally attach on the defendants for denying both; and, the execution of the former having been proved to the satisfaction of the jury, justice would have been defeated by a mere technicality if the defence had succeeded by proof that the plaintiff had contemplated the introduction of some alteration in the contract with a view to make it more favourable for the defendant.

Rule discharged.

IN THE EXCHEQUER CHAMBER.

(Error from the Queen's Bench.)

DOE on the several demises of SPILSBURY and
Another *against* Sir FRANCIS BURDETT, Baronet, and Others.

DOE on the same demises *against* SKYNNER
and Others.

Lands were limited to such uses &c. as *L.* should appoint by her last will and

THESE were actions of ejectment, brought in the Court of King's Bench, the first for lands in *Derbyshire*, the second for lands in the town and county of

testament in writing, to be by her *signed, sealed, and published in the presence of, and attested by, three or more credible witnesses.* *L.* signed and sealed an instrument (before stat. 7 *W.* 4. and 1 *Vict.* c. 26.) containing an appointment, commencing thus: — “*I, L., do publish and declare this to be my last will and testament; and ending thus: — “I declare this only to be my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have to this my last will and testament set my hand and seal, the 12th day &c.” The attestation was as follows: — “Witness C. B., E. B., A. B.”*

Held, by the Court of Exchequer Chamber, reversing the judgment of the Court of K. B., not a good execution of the power.

Per Vaughan J., Parke B., Alderson B., and Colman J. Dissentientibus Tindal C. J., Bosanquet J., and Gurney B.

Nottingham.

Nottingham. On the respective trials, in 1834, before *Tindal C. J.* at the *Derbyshire* Lent assizes, and *Little-dale J.* at the *Nottingham* Lent assizes, verdicts were found for the plaintiffs, subject to the opinion of the Court upon two cases. The Court of King's Bench, in each case, decided (in *Michaelmas* term, 1835 (a)) that a power, set forth in the cases, was well executed by the instrument also set forth in the cases; and, the defendants claiming under the appointments in the instrument, and the lessors of the plaintiffs under interests which were to arise in default of appointment, judgment was given for the defendants. The cases were then turned into special verdicts, the material facts in which were as follows.

By a settlement, made (4th and 5th *December* 1787) upon the marriage of *Lydia Henning Ward* with *William Augustus Skynner*, certain of the lands in question were limited (after certain uses and trusts, which failed to take effect, or became exhausted), after the decease of the said *L. H. W.*, to the use and behoof of such person and persons, for such estate and estates, upon such trusts, and to and for such ends, intents, and purposes, as she the said *L. H. W.*, whether covert or sole, and notwithstanding her present intended or any future coverture, by her last will and testament in writing, or any writing purporting to be, or in the nature of, her last will and testament, or by any codicil or codicils thereto, to be by her signed, sealed, and published in the presence of, and attested by, three or more credible witnesses, should give, devise, direct, limit, or appoint; and, for want of such gift, &c., then over, as stated in

1839.

DOE dem.
SPILSBURY
against
BURDETT.

(a) *Doe dem. Spilsbury v. Sir Francis Burdett*, 4 A. & E. 1.

1839.

DOE dem.
SPILSBURY
against
BURDETT.

the verdict. Other lands were also settled, subject to another power, which, as far as regards the point here decided, was precisely the same as that already set out.

The verdict then found the facts necessary for shewing the nature of the claims of the several parties (as before stated); and found that *Lydia Henning Skynner* (formerly *Ward*) died 30th *September* 1789. She left, at her death, an instrument in writing, of which a facsimile (a) was set out on the special verdict, and of which the following are the material parts. "I, *Lydia Henning Skynner*, do publish and declare this to be my last will and testament. I appoint my beloved husband *William Augustus Skynner* my executor, and my beloved mother *Lydia Ward* executrix with him. I give to my beloved mother, *Lydia Ward*, for her natural life, the rents," &c. (the verdict then set out the appointments in the will, which concluded thus), "I declare this only to be my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have to this my last will and testament, contained in one sheet, set my hand and seal, the 12th day of *September*,

"*Lydia Henning Skynner* (b),

"in the year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine.

"Witness, *Lydia Henning Skynner* (L. S.).

"*Charles Ball*.

"*Elixth. Ball*.

"*Ann Ball*."

(a) As to the form and places of the signatures, &c., see the judgments, post, pp. 960, 981.

(b) The words following were on a different page from the preceding, but on the same sheet.

The verdict also found that the said instrument in writing, purporting to be the last will and testament of the said *L. H. Skynner*, was signed, sealed, and published by her, in the presence of the said *Charles Ball*, *Elizabeth Ball*, and *Ann Ball*, and attested by them; and that their attestation was in manner and form as appears on the said instrument.

1839.

DOE dem.
SPILSBURY
against
BURDETT.

Judgment having been entered for the defendants in each case, error was brought on each in the Exchequer Chamber.

Doe dem. Spilsbury v. Burdett was argued, before *Tindal C. J.*, *Park*, *Bosanquet*, *Vaughan*, and *Coltman Js.*, and *Parke*, *Bolland*, *Alderson*, and *Gurney Bs.*, by *Sir F. Pollock* for the plaintiff in error (the plaintiff below), and *Sir J. Campbell*, Attorney-General, *Goulbourn Serjt.*, and *W. T. S. Daniel*, for different defendants in error (a), on *January 8th*, 1837.

Doe dem. Spilsbury v. Skynner was argued before the same Judges, by *Wigram* for the plaintiff in error (the plaintiff below), and *Hill* for the defendants in error, on *January 10th*, 1838.

The arguments used and authorities cited will appear fully from the judgments.

Cur. adv. vult.

On *February 4th*, 1839, seven (b) of the learned Judges, the Court not being unanimous, delivered their judgments seriatim.

(a) The Court declined to hear *G. T. White*, for another defendant in error, on the ground that, although his client had entered a separate appearance, it was entered by the attorney who appeared for another defendant in error.

(b) *Park J.* had died since the argument; and *Bolland B.* was prevented by illness from attending.

1839.

DOX dem.
SPILSBURY
against
BURDETT.

Coltman J.

COLTMAN J. I regret that I am unable to agree in this case with the judgment of the Court of King's Bench.

The case of *Wright v. Wakeford* (a) is the leading one on the subject. The principle deducible from that case is that, if a power of appointment is given to be carried into effect by a deed or instrument in writing which is to be executed in the presence of, and attested by, two or more witnesses, there must be an attestation by the witnesses, specifying that the instrument has been executed with all the formalities prescribed by the donor of the power. Such, as I understand it, was the doctrine laid down in that case: and although there was a difference of opinion amongst the Judges, the opinion of the majority was acquiesced in by Lord *Eldon* in the Court of Chancery (b), being evidently, as was stated by the Vice-Chancellor in the case of *Hougham v. Sandys* (c), in accordance with the opinion he previously entertained: and that decision has never, as far as I can learn, been over-ruled by any subsequent judicial determination. To place in a clear light the principles on which that case was decided, it will be proper to advert to the words used in the certificate of those Judges whose opinion prevailed.

A power had been given to be carried into effect with the consent of *Thomas Wood* the elder and *Thomas Wood* the younger, testified by any writing under their hands and seals, attested by two or more credible witnesses. "To this consent," say the Judges, "two circumstances were made necessary: first, that it should be testified by some writing under their hands and seals;

(a) 4 *Taunt.* 213. S. C. (in Chancery) 17 *Ves.* 454.

(b) See 1 *Sugden on Powers*, 303. 6th ed.

(c) 2 *Sim.* 95, 142.

and

and, secondly, that the fact of their putting their hands and seals to such writing should be attested by two or more witnesses; so that the point in question appears to us to be simply whether the attestation "asserts both these facts." It has been suggested that this case may have proceeded on the ground that the witnesses, by specifying in their attestation that the instrument was sealed and delivered in their presence, must be considered as declaring negatively that it was not signed in their presence. That such was not the ground of the decision appears still more distinctly from what was said by the Judges a little below the passage already cited. "If," say the Judges, "it were to be determined as a matter of fact, whether the signature of the *Woods* was made in the presence of the same witnesses who attested their having sealed the indenture," "a jury, under all the circumstances to which their attention might be directed, might, perhaps not improperly, presume the affirmative of such question." That an attestation specifying only a sealing and delivery in the presence of the witnesses, where a signing also in their presence is required, ought not to be considered as importing negatively that the deed had not been signed in their presence, appears also from what was said by Lord *Eldon* in the case of *M^{rs} Queen v. Farquhar* (a). In that case the instrument was required to be signed and sealed in the presence of two or more witnesses. No attestation was required. The deed (as was also the case in *Wright v. Wakeford* (b)) purported to be signed, sealed, and executed in the presence of three credible witnesses. The attestation was only *sealed and delivered in the presence of &c.* Lord *Eldon*

1839.

DOX dem.
SPILSBURY
against
BURDETT.

Coltman J.

(a) 11 Ves. 477.

(b) 4 Taunt. 218.

1839.

DOE dem.
SPILSBURY
against
BUDETT.

Coltman J.

said, upon the question whether, after execution, it ought to be taken that he did sign in the presence of the witnesses attesting the sealing and delivery, "there would be a miscarriage in a Judge, directing a jury, if that fact was found, not to presume that the deed was signed in the presence of the same witnesses, as it professed to be."

The case of *Wright v. Wakeford* (a) was followed by that of *Doe dem. Mansfield v. Peach* (b), which I cite for the distinct enunciation it contains of the principle previously acted on in *Wright v. Wakeford* (a).

In *Doe dem. Mansfield v. Peach* (b) the appointment was to be by deed or writing under hand and seal, executed in the presence of, and to be attested by, two or more witnesses. The form of attestation was, *sealed and delivered by the said Robert Peach in the presence of Thomas Martin, John Seale*. It was said by the Court, in giving judgment, "It seems to us that to make a due execution of the power, there must be a making of an instrument with all the forms required by the power, and that there must be an attestation of its execution with all those forms. The intention of the parties was, that the attestation should be co-extensive with the things required to be done."

This case has been followed by others in which the same doctrine has prevailed. And it is observable that, although many cases are to be found in our law books where powers had been given to be exercised by writing executed in the presence of and attested by two or more witnesses, in none of them have the instruments been held to be well executed unless the attestation itself

(a) 4 Taunt. 213.

(b) 2 M. & S. 576.

either

either stated in express terms, or shewed by equivalent expressions, that the requisite conditions had been complied with; *Doe dem. Hotchkiss v. Pearce* (a), *Wright v. Barlow* (b), *Hougham v. Sandys* (c), *Ward v. Swift* (d), *Curteis v. Kenrick* (e).

It is to be observed, however, that dicta of two learned Judges may be cited as qualifying in some degree the generality of the positions laid down in those cases.

In *Moodie v. Reid* (g) the appointment was required to be made by deed, or will signed and published in the presence of, and attested by, two or more credible witnesses. The donee of the power made her will concluding in these terms: — *These my last bequeaths signed by me this 4th day of February, 1812. Sarah Moodie. Witness, Betty Headington. Jane Headington.* Lord C. J. Gibbs, upon the argument, expressed an opinion that the signing was clearly attested, but seemed to doubt about the publishing. In the result the Court, after taking time to consider, certified the appointment not to be well executed. The reasons do not appear. With reference to the remark of Lord C. J. Gibbs, it may not unreasonably be asked how it appears that the will was signed in the presence of the witnesses. Does the simple signature by a witness of his name to an instrument import that he saw it signed? Does it import more than that the instrument had been authenticated in his presence, by the party executing it, as a genuine instrument? The authentication may have been simply by an acknowledgment of his signature,

1839.

DOE dem.
SPILSBURY
against
BURDETT.

Coltman J. J

(a) 6 Taunt. 402.

(b) 3 M. & S. 512.

(c) 2 Sim. 95.

(d) 1 Cr. & M. 171. S. C. 3 Tyrwh. 122.

(e) 3 M. & W. 461.

(g) 7 Taunt. 355.; S. C. (in Chanc.) 1 Mad. 516,

1839.

DOE dem.
SPILSBURY
against
BURDETT.

Colman J.

which, according to the case of *Jones v. Dale* (a), is sufficient; for, as there said by *Reynolds J.*, saying and doing are different things; “and his saying he had writ it himself won’t amount to a subscribing in the presence of three witnesses.”

The dictum of Lord Chief Justice *Gibbs* derives some support from what was said by the Vice-Chancellor, Sir *John Leach*, in the case of *Stanhope v. Keir* (b).

In that case the power was to be executed by will, signed and published in the presence of, and attested by, three or more witnesses. The will concluded as follows:—*This is my last will and testament, made and signed in the year of our Lord 1818, on the 19th day of November, at Gravesend, in the county of Kent. (Signed) Eugenia Keir, (L.S.) In the presence of G. McDonald Lockhart. Thomas Bennett. Alexander Edwards.* The Vice-Chancellor, Sir *John Leach*, said, on this case, “The argument for the defendant supposes the witnesses to be acquainted with the contents of the will. I cannot assume more from this attestation than that they saw Mrs. *Keir* sign the instrument.” The will was consequently held to be an insufficient execution of the power. In this case, it is to be observed that the attestation contained the words *in the presence of*, but did not specify what it was that was done in their presence.

The doctrine enounced in these dicta of Lord C. J. *Gibbs* and Sir *John Leach* was much extended in the subsequent case of *Buller v. Burt* (c) also before Sir

(a) 1 *Sugd. on Powers*, 302. (6th ed.).

(b) 2 *Sim. & St.* 37.

(c) Cited from MS. in *Doe dem. Spilsbury v. Burdett*, in K. B. The judgment is given verbatim from the MS. in the judgment of the Court of King’s Bench, 4 *A. & E.* pp. 15, 16, 17.

John Leach. In that case the appointment was to be by deed sealed and delivered in the presence of, and attested by, two or more witnesses. The instrument concluded with the following words:—*signed and sealed at Cotton aforesaid, this 18th day of September, in the year of our Lord 1813, by L. Smith, (L.S.) Witness, John H. Burt. Hannah Bowles.* The Master of the Rolls is reported to have said that “the attestation of the witnesses being considered as a part of the appointment, it must follow that when the word ‘witnesses,’ without more, is used in the attestation, it affirms that all has been done in the presence of the witnesses which is stated in the body of the deed.” Upon this dictum, I would take the liberty to remark that the words of the deed are the words of the party executing it, not of the witnesses; and that I am unable to see on what ground the declaration of the party, that the requisite conditions have been complied with, can be substituted for the attestation of the witnesses, or how we can be justified in assuming, contrary to what the fact is likely to have been, that the witnesses are cognizant of the contents of the instrument, an assumption which, in *Stanhope v. Keir* (a), the same Judge seemed to think he should not be warranted in making.

In this case of *Buller v. Burt* (b), as well as in the two preceding cases, the execution of the instrument was held to be defective. The dicta to which reference has been made were not the foundations on which the judgments rested; we cannot know whether the opinions of those learned Judges had been fully made up in regard to them, so that they were prepared to act on them.

1839.

DOX dem.
SPILABURY
against
BURDETT.

Coltman J.

(a) 2 Sim. & Stu. 37.

(b) See *antè*, p. 944. note (c).

Those

1839.

DOX detm.
SPRISBURY
against
BURBURY

Coltman J.

Those cases, therefore, cannot be considered as having established judicially that any thing short of an attestation by the witnesses, coextensive with the several acts required to be done, can be considered as a compliance with the requisite condition. To admit anything short of this as sufficient, tends to introduce uncertainty and confusion into a question in which precision and certainty are of the greatest importance.

On these grounds, I think that we ought not to fritter away the strict and intelligible rule laid down in *Wright v. Wakeford* (a) by the introduction of subtle refinements and nice distinctions. The result is, that the appointment in this case was ill-executed: and therefore, in my opinion, the judgment of the Court below ought to be reversed.

Gurney B.

GURNEY B. The question for the consideration of the Court is, whether Mrs. *Skynner* did or did not duly execute a power conferred upon her by her marriage settlement?

The terms in which the power is given, are "by her last will and testament," "to be by her *signed, sealed, and published* in the presence of, and attested by, three or more credible witnesses." Mrs. *Skynner* has made a will; and she professes to do so in execution of the power; and to fulfil all its requirements. She commences, I "do publish and declare this to be my last will and testament." And, in the conclusion, she says, "I declare this only to be my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have to this my last will and tes-

(a) 4 Taunt. 213.

tament,

tament, contained in one sheet, set my hand and seal." Then follow her signature and seal; and the attestation is general. "Witness, *Charles Ball. Elizth. Ball—Anne Ball.*"

1839.

DOR DEM.
SPILSBURY
against
BURDETT.

Gurney B.

The objection which is made to this is, that the attestation is not to be construed to extend beyond the act of signing and sealing; that it must not be construed to extend to the commencement of the will, *I do publish and declare this to be my last will and testament*, nor even to the words, *I declare this to be my last will and testament*, but merely to the very last words, *in witness whereof I have to this my last will and testament set my hand and seal*; and, therefore, that the publication of the will is not attested, and the execution of the power is on that account invalid.

The Court of King's Bench has decided that this is a good execution of the power; and I think that that decision is right.

The subject is by no means free from difficulty. The Courts of *Westminster Hall* have, by their anxiety to see powers strictly executed, been led, I think, into nice and refined distinctions, by which the intentions of the creators of those powers have been grievously disappointed. It has been truly observed by Sir *Edward Sugden*, in his *Treatise on Powers* (a), that the decisions which have been made upon the execution of powers are at variance with the decisions which have been uniformly made upon the subject of the execution of wills under the Statute of Frauds; and I think that it has been unfortunate that these cases have been so decided.

Not to mention the cases which occurred before the

(a) Vol. 1. p. 317—321. (6th ed.)

1839.

Doz dem.
SPILABURY
against
BURDETT.

Gurney B.

year 1812, the case which is considered to have settled the law upon this point is that of *Wright v. Wakeford* (a).

In that case, the terms of the power were, *by any writing "under their and his hands and seals," "attested by two or more credible witnesses."* The form of the attestation was "*sealed and delivered by the within-named A. and B. "in the presence of"* &c. The objection was, that the attestation did not extend to the *signing*: it was an attestation of no more than of *sealing* and *delivery*; and, the *sealing* and *delivery* being specified, it must be presumed that the witnesses did not mean to attest the *signing*. Lord *Eldon* sent this case to the Court of Common Pleas; and the Court was divided in opinion. Two certificates were returned: one by Lord Chief Justice *Mansfield* that the attestation was sufficient; the other by Mr. Justice *Heath*, Mr. Justice *Lawrence*, and Mr. Justice *Chambre*, that it was insufficient. It is perhaps too late to consider whether, if the case were now to occur, it would receive the same decision. I think that it is very much to be lamented that the majority of the Court felt themselves compelled by antecedent cases to come to that conclusion: it can hardly be doubted that it defeated the intention of the creator of the power. If the word "*attested*" had not been in the power, the decision would have been the other way. In the case of *M^cQueen v. Farquhar* (b), where the power directed the instrument to be signed and sealed in the presence of witnesses (but did not require an attestation), and the attestation was to the sealing and delivery, Lord *Eldon* held that the execution was good,

(a) 4 Taunt. 213.; 17 Ves. 454.

(b) 11 Ves. 467.

and

and said it would be a miscarriage in a Judge if he did not direct a jury to presume that the deed was *signed*, as it professed to be upon the face of it, in the presence of witnesses who attested the sealing and delivery. It does not readily occur to one's mind why a Judge may not make the same presumption which he may direct a jury to make. The case of *Wright v. Wakeford (a)* has, however, been adopted since in several cases; and it is perhaps too late to be corrected, if it be erroneous. But the case went to the extremest verge, and ought not to be extended. If I find a case in all its parts the same as *Wright v. Wakeford (a)*, I may be compelled to yield to it, but not otherwise. The facts of this case are different; and I think that the execution in this case cannot be impeached but by extending the doctrine of *Wright v. Wakeford (a)*.

In this case the testatrix does all that the power requires. She *publishes*, she *signs*, she *seals*. The attestation is *general*. I think that it is to be taken that the witnesses attested all three. I think that they may fairly be taken to be as cognizant of the last line but one as of the last line (if not of the first line as well as the last); and, when the testatrix set about executing the power, and has studiously done all that the power required, I cannot consent to presume that they who have given a general attestation did not witness the whole and attest the whole. Independently of all parol evidence, it appears to me that it is the true conclusion from the premises.

What is the publication of a will, has been a matter of discussion in more cases than one; and, in the case

1839.

Dor dem.
SPILSBURY
against
BARNETT.

Gurney B.

(a) 4 Taunt. 213.

1839.

Don dem.
SPILSBURY
against
BURDETT.

Gurney B.

of *Moodie v. Reid* (a), Chief Justice Gibbs inquired of the bar what it meant, and received no answer; and he said that he was not surprised that he received no answer. If it means *nothing*, it would seem extraordinary that it should be requisite that that *nothing* should be attested. If it means *any thing*, I should suppose that it must mean that the testator, at the time of making the will, stated that that which he was so executing was his will. This, it appears to me, the testatrix has done; and this I think the witnesses have attested.

The last two cases that have been before the Courts have gone some way towards relaxing the extreme severity of the rule upon which the Courts had before acted.

In the case of *Simeon v. Simeon* (b) the power directed the will to be *signed and published* in the presence of and attested by witnesses. The form of the attestation was, "*signed and delivered in the presence of*" &c. It was decided that the power was well executed.

Ward v. Swift, in 1832 (c), was a case sent by the Lord Chancellor for the opinion of the Court of Exchequer. The terms of the power were, the will to be *published* under *hand and seal*, in the presence of, and *attested* by, three witnesses. The attestation was, *signed, sealed, and delivered*. The Court certified that the power was well executed.

In both those cases, *delivered* was held to be equivalent to *published*.

Upon the whole, I am of opinion that the judgment of the Court of King's Bench should be affirmed.

(a) 7 Taunt. 355.

(b) 4 Sim. 555.

(c) 1 Cro. & M. 171. S. C. 3 Tyrwh. 122.

ALDERSON B. In this case, the circumstances of which have been already adverted to by my two learned Brothers who have preceded me, the only question is, whether the power conferred by the settlement of 4th and 5th *December* 1787 on *Lydia Henning Ward* has been properly executed by her. The power was to be executed by an instrument to be by her signed, sealed, and published, in the presence of, and attested by, three or more credible witnesses.

Now what is it that is required by such a power? That must depend entirely on technical rules, and on the authorities to be found in our books. In all cases, but most especially in those relating to real estate, it is of the greatest importance to adhere to established rules. Even if we think that originally they were established on what now appear to us insufficient reasons, we ought to adhere to them; because men have in all probability accommodated themselves to them, and, in the creation of their subsequent instruments, acted upon them: so that it will almost inevitably happen that in over-ruling them we shall do the greatest injustice to those who have relied upon the faith of the decisions, and contradict also the actual intentions of innocent parties. Thus to act is to introduce into the law, and into a branch of it in which certainty is of the greatest importance, the greatest uncertainty and fluctuation of opinion. And I think that the evil is, if possible, increased by distinguishing cases on minute and trivial grounds, and practically, although not in terms, over-ruling the prior decisions.

If, therefore, the examination of the cases already decided leads me to the conclusion that the word "attest," in such a power as this, means "subscribe a memorandum

1839.

Don dem.
Syllabury
against
Burdett.

Alderson B.

1839.

DOE dem.
SPILSBURY
against
BURDETT.

Alderson B.

memorandum of attestation," and that, in order to make such execution valid, the attestation must express all the requisites which the witnesses are called upon to attest, I must, however I may regret it, hold that this power is ill executed, and that the decision of the King's Bench is wrong. And this is the conclusion at which, after much consideration, I have arrived.

The leading case on this point is that of *Wright v. Wakeford* (a). There the power was required to be executed by an instrument under hand and seal, attested by two witnesses: the memorandum of attestation expressed that it was "sealed and delivered," and was silent as to the fact of signature: but the deed itself purported to be executed in pursuance of the power therein recited, and was actually signed as well as sealed. The majority of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas certified their opinion to the Lord Chancellor to be that the power was ill executed: and, in their certificate (after admitting that a jury might, as a question of fact, have come to the conclusion that the witnesses saw the signing as well as the sealing and delivery), say that, "as a question of law," "it must be determined by the true construction of the terms of the attestation;" to which the "consideration must be confined;" and that the signature was not "comprehended in the words made use of in the attestation." And even Lord Chief Justice *Mansfield*, who differed from them, seems to me to have construed (more liberally, indeed, but still to have construed) the words of the attestation as including signature, rather than to have come to the conclusion that *attested* was not to be considered as

(a) 4 Townt. 213.

requiring

requiring an expression in writing of the particulars requisite for the due execution of the power. , 1839.

This case appears to me, as plainly as words can express it, to have decided that "attest" means "subscribe a memorandum of attestation containing all the particulars required for the due execution of the power." This case has never been over-ruled: but, on the contrary, has been expressly confirmed by the cases of *Doe dem. Mansfield v. Peach* (a), *Wright v. Barlow* (b), and *Hougham v. Sandys* (c), in which the same defect was held fatal to the execution of the power; and by the introduction of a bill into parliament, stat. 54 G. 3. c. 168., whereby the inconvenience resulting therefrom was in part remedied.

It is, indeed, contended that these cases are distinguishable from the present, because the memorandum of attestation there expressly contained some of the requisites; and the maxim *expressio unius est exclusio alterius* is applied. To my mind this is not just reasoning. *Wright v. Wakeford* (d) decided, if it decided any thing, that the requisites must be expressed in the attestation. Whereas the maxim referred to has only reference to inferences of fact to be drawn from written documents or parol declarations. It only means that, if you expressly name some out of certain requisites, the inference is stronger that those omitted are intended to be excluded than if none at all had been mentioned. Neither can, however, exclude the real fact from being proved or shewn. But, according to *Wright v. Wakeford* (d), the requisites must all be expressed in the written attestation: a decision which leaves nothing to

—
Doe dem.
SPILSBURY
against
BURDETT.

Alderson B.

(a) 2 M. & S. 576.

(c) 2 Sim. 95.

(b) 3 M. & S. 512.

(d) 4 Taunt. 213.

1839.

DOX DEM.
BRILLIBURY
against
BURDETTE.

Alderson B.

inference, and puts the omission of any one on exactly the same footing as the omission of all. Such a distinction, therefore, would practically over-rule *Wright v. Wakeford* (a) and the other cases which followed it, whilst in words it supported them.

But there are not wanting cases in which a general attestation has also been held equally within the rule. In *Moodie v. Reid* (b) the attestation was only, *Witness B. H., J. H.* The Court of Common Pleas held it a bad execution of a power which required a will to be signed and published in the presence of, and attested by, two witnesses. Again, in *Stanhope v. Keir* (c) the attestation was, *in the presence of*; and in *Buller v. Burt* (d), *witness*. In all these the execution was held bad, although in all the facts had taken place in the presence of the witnesses which they were required to attest. But they were decided upon *Wright v. Wakeford* (a): and in *Hougham v. Sandys* (e) the Vice-Chancellor expressly says, in expounding *Wright v. Wakeford* (a), that the proper meaning of the term *attest* was, that the witnesses should, *by the written attestation*, give their evidence to the fact that the instrument was signed as well as sealed.

But then it is said, and on this the decision in the King's Bench turned, that in construing a general attestation the Court is at liberty to look beyond the mere attestation, and even to look at the whole of the deed for that purpose. Sir John Leach is reported to have said, in *Buller v. Burt* (d), that, when the word *witnesses*, without more, is used in the attestation, it must be

(a) 4 Taunt. 213.

(b) 7 Taunt. 355.; 1 Mad. 516.

(c) 2 Sim. & Stu. 37.

(d) Antè, p. 944. note (c).

(e) 2 Sim. 95.

taken to affirm that all has been done in the presence of the witnesses which is stated in the body of the deed. If this principle be true, there can be no doubt that the decision of the King's Bench in this case is right. But I cannot agree to the principle, which appears to me founded on a forgetfulness of the learned Judge, or, which is perhaps the case, a misapprehension of the reporter, as to the distinction which the previous cases had established between *attesting* and *witnessing* a deed. There is no doubt, as was laid down by Lord Eldon in the case of *M^{rs} Queen v. Farquhar (a)*, that, if a power is required to be executed in a particular way in the presence of witnesses, and the attestation be general, the Court or jury may look at the whole deed, and may infer, as a conclusion of fact, that what is stated in the deed to have been done was done in the presence of the witnesses. The deed itself is *prima facie* evidence of this, and may be looked at for that purpose; for, in those cases, the requisites may be properly ascertained by such inference, or by parol evidence of the fact.

But the cases which we are considering require that the requisites shall not only be witnessed but attested: and, in order to fulfil the meaning of the word *attested*, they decide that what the witnesses have witnessed they shall state that they saw done. And this, I think, can only be done by the attestation clause itself, which contains that which the deed does not, the declaration of the witnesses themselves. The deed shews what the party executing it did at the time: and we may perhaps infer, from that, that the witnesses saw it done: but the attestation itself alone can, as it seems to me, *express* the

1899.

Dox dem.
SPILSBURY
against
BURDETT.

Aderton B.

(a) 11 Ves. 478.

1899.

—
 Doe dem.
 Spilsbury
 against
 Burdett.

Alderson B.

facts which they saw and attest. In these powers the creator of them did not mean to leave any thing to inference. That, at least, is what the case of *Wright v. Wakeford (a)* and those depending on it must, I think, be taken to have decided on this subject.

To construe the attestation by reference to the body of the deed is, moreover, directly at variance with several of the decided cases. In *Doe dem. Mansfield v. Peach (b)* the deed contained a statement of the requisites having been complied with; and that, too, in the very terms of the power; yet the decision was, that the power was ill executed. So in *Wright v. Wakeford (a)*, and the others which resemble it, the fact of the signature appeared on the face of the deed. In *Stanhope v. Keir (c)* the testimonium clause began, "And this is my last will;" which, if said in the presence of the witnesses, was a clear publication; yet Sir *John Leach* held it ill executed, saying expressly that the argument, that the declaration with which the will concluded was in fact a publication as well as a signing, and that the witnesses, by adding their names to this declaration, attested both facts, supposed the witnesses to be acquainted with the contents of the will. He could not assume more from this attestation than that the witnesses saw the testatrix sign the instrument. This reasoning would make me think that the dictum of Sir *J. Leach* in *Buller v. Burt (d)*, which, it may be observed, was one wholly unnecessary to the decision in that case, has been inaccurately reported. At any rate, it is at variance with several other decisions, and is, I think, contrary to principle for the reasons which he himself has given.

(a) 4 Taunt. 213.

(b) 2 M. & S. 576.

(c) 2 Sim. & Stu. 37.

(d) See ante, p. 944. note (c).

The same does not, indeed, apply to the dictum of *Gibbs C. J.* in *Moodie v. Reid* (a): for that may depend on the attestation of the witnesses being placed opposite to the signature of the testatrix; in which case it agrees with the observation to be found in *Stanhope v. Keir* (b).

These two dicta, however, both unnecessary for the decisions of the respective cases, and both at variance with several decisions, are not sufficient authority in my opinion for the decision in this case. Neither can I find any authority for referring to the testimonium clause, even if that would do (which I think it will not), to support this judgment. If any part of the deed can be looked at, I do not see why the whole may not be taken into consideration.

Upon the whole, my opinion is that, in conformity to *Wright v. Wakeford* (c), and the other decisions following it, we ought to hold that it is necessary to express in the attestation itself that the requisites have been complied with. It is not, indeed, necessary that the very words of the power should be followed. If there are words capable of bearing the construction, it is enough. *Ward v. Swift* (d), *Simeon v. Simeon* (e), *Lempriere v. Valpy* (g), and the late case in the Exchequer (h), have decided that any words in the attestation, shewing the will or instrument to have been completed as an operative instrument, will satisfy the word *published*, or the word *delivered*, in a power. But there must be some expression capable of receiving a construction to the effect required. I think that it is not competent to

1839.

DOX dem.
SPILSBURY
against
BUADETT.

Alderson B.

(a) 7 Tawnt. 355.

(b) 2 Sim. & Sta. 37.

(c) 4 Tawnt. 213.

(d) 1 Cr. & M. 171. S. C. 3 Tyrwh. 122.

(e) 4 Sim. 555.

(g) 5 Sim. 108.

(h) *Curteis v. Kenrick*, 3 M. & W. 461.

1839.

Don dem.
SUGDEN
against
BUTTER
Alderson B.

supply any defect in the attestation by resorting to the words of the deed, or even of the testimonium clause; because to do so seems to me to suppose the witnesses to see the deed, which is contrary to the fact in most cases, and to supply by inference alone that which, according to the decided cases, the party creating the power meant should be expressed in the attestation itself, and not left to inference at all (a).

I concur with Sir *E. Sugden*, in his book *On Powers*, in wishing that these cases had at first been decided in conformity to those on the Statute of Frauds; but I am bound by their authority.

For these reasons, I think the judgment of the King's Bench ought to be reversed.

Bosanquet J. BOSANQUET J. After much consideration, and some fluctuation of opinion, I think that the case affords sufficient ground for affirming the judgment of the Court of Queen's Bench.

It may be assumed, as a rule now too well established to admit of dispute, that where the instrument which creates a power prescribes certain formalities to be observed in the execution of it, attested by witnesses, the witnesses must attest all those formalities, and their attestation must appear upon the face of the instrument executed.

(a) This is the construction put upon these cases by Sir *E. Sugden*, as appears from the act drawn by him, and which is to be found, No. 8., in the appendix to his book *On Powers*. The preamble to that act is as follows: — "And whereas the form of the attestation frequently, from ignorance or inadvertence, has not contained the full statement of the acts which the witnesses were required to attest," whereby titles have been defeated &c. This shews what that eminent lawyer takes to be the result of the cases.

In

In *Wright v. Wakeford* (a) Lord *Eldon* expressed his opinion that the proper meaning of the term *attest* was, that the witnesses should, by their written attestation, give evidence to the fact that the instrument was signed as well as sealed and delivered. And Lord *Ellenborough*, in delivering the opinion of the Court in *Doe dem. Mansfield v. Peach* (b), says, "To make a due execution of the power, there must be a making of an instrument with all the forms required by the power, and that there must be an attestation of its execution with all those forms." If therefore signing, sealing, and publishing be required, and any one of them be unattested, the execution of the power will be void.

The question then is, whether the publication of the will before the Court appears upon the face of the will to have been duly attested.

The signatures of the three witnesses are immediately preceded by the word *witness* only, unaccompanied by the ordinary memorandum expressing what the matters are which they profess to attest. It must be admitted that, in the absence of any such memorandum, it cannot be argued that, by professing in terms to attest signing and sealing, the attestation of publication is excluded. But the question remains, what have they attested? The will begins in these words, "I, *Lydia Henning Skynner*, do *publish and declare* this to be my last will and testament." It then proceeds, "I appoint my beloved husband" &c.; and, after making several dispositions of property, concludes thus: "I *declare* this only to be my last will and testament. In *witness whereof* I have to this my last will and testament, contained in

1839.

DOE dem.
SPILSBURY
against
BURDETT.

Bosanquet J.

(a) 17 Ves. 454.

(b) 2 M. & S. 581.

1839. one sheet, set my hand and seal, the 12th day of September,

Dox dem.
SPILSBURY
against
BURDETT.

Lydia Henning Skynner.

in the year of our Lord 1789.

Bosanquet J.

Witness,

Charles Ball.

Elixth. Ball.

Lydia Henning Skynner. (l. s.)"

Ann Ball.

The whole will, including the seal and signature of the testatrix and the attestation of the witnesses, was on one sheet. The first signature was at the bottom of the second page; and what follows was written on the top of the third page of the same sheet, the seal and signature of the testatrix being on the right side of the page, and the word "witness," and the names of the witnesses immediately opposite to them, on the left side.

The donor of a power, in creating it, may undoubtedly prescribe whatever ceremonies he may think proper to accompany the execution; and, if he requires the observance of such ceremonies to be attested, the attestation of them ought so to be manifested that all who derive title under the instrument executed may thereon see recorded the testimony of the witnesses to the due observance of those ceremonies. In this case, after the word *witness*, the names of the three witnesses without more are subscribed. But the testatrix, by the concluding clause of the will, professes to have declared this to be her last will and testament, and in witness thereof to have set her hand and seal; and, if the signature of the witnesses can be referred to that clause, it may be taken to declare their attestation of what that clause contains. It certainly is not necessary that the memorandum of attestation should be written by any
of

of the witnesses themselves; nor is it usual for any of them to write it: if they sign such a memorandum, though they may never have read it, that is enough to constitute a written attestation. And it appears to me that, in the present case, by signing under the word "witness," without more, we are justified in holding that the witnesses have adopted the words used by the testatrix in that clause of the will, immediately above their own signatures, which describes the mode of execution. If that be so, have they not attested the *publication* of the will as well as the signature and seal of the testatrix? I fully admit that the terms of the instrument which created the power must be taken to import that publication is something more than signing and sealing. This was the opinion of Lord *Hardwicke*, who, in speaking of a trial at bar in the King's Bench, upon the will of Mr. *Windham of Clearwell (a)*, said, "The only question was, whether the testator *published* it, for there was no doubt of his executing it in the presence of three witnesses, or their attesting it in his presence, which shews that *publication* is in the eye of the law an essential part of the execution of a will, and not a mere matter of form." Whatever the nature of the act may be, therefore, it is some act which is required both to be done and to be attested.

I am disposed to agree in opinion with those of my learned brothers who think that the execution of the power in this case is not to be supported upon the ground that the witnesses, by subscribing their names, have attested the *publication* mentioned at the commencement of the will. To assume that the witnesses were made acquainted with the contents of the will

1839.

Dox dem.
SPILSBURY
against
BURDETT.

Dosanquet J.

(a) In *Ross v. Ewer*, 3 Atk. 161.

would

1899.

DOX DEM.
SPILSBURY
against
BURDATT.

Bosanquet J.

would be to assume what is contrary to all experience. It is not necessary to the validity of an attestation that the witnesses should even know the nature of the instrument which they attest; *White v. The British Museum* (a): and an attesting witness is not considered, in practice, as affected with the contents of an instrument to which he has subscribed his name. See 3 *Sugden's Vend. and Purch.* 479. (10th ed.). I find no principle, therefore, upon which it can be inferred that the witnesses who have subscribed the will in question were cognizant of the words at the beginning of it, which purported that the testatrix had published the paper as her will, and that they professed to bear witness to her having so done. But, when the testatrix, after having completed all the dispositions of her property, concludes with these words, "I declare this only to be my last will and testament. In witness whereof" (that is, of which declaration) I have "set my hand and seal," and the witnesses add immediately after, "*witness, C. B., E. B., A. B.,*" I think that there is just ground for holding that the witnesses profess to add their witness to the witness of the testatrix, with respect to the manner in which she has executed her will. If the witnesses had subscribed a memorandum in the following words,—"Declared to be the only last will and testament of *L. H. S.* In witness whereof she has set her hand and seal this 12th September 1829,"—there could, I apprehend, be no doubt that a publication, as well as signature and seal, would have been duly attested. For, if a declaration be something in addition to signing and sealing, it must, I conceive, amount to a publication. When the witnesses subscribe their names, they must be supposed to profess

(a) 6 Bing. 310.

that

that they attest something. In the absence of any special memorandum, what do they profess to attest? If they attest the seal and signature, why do they not attest the declaration of the testatrix also, which is recorded in the same clause with her signing and sealing?

1839.

Don dem.
SPILSBURY
' against
BURDETT.

Bosanquet J.

It appears to me that the testatrix and the witnesses may be considered as having signed the same memorandum of execution; that what she professes to testify they also testify; and that their attestation, subscribed to what they witness, is to be understood as if it were written "Witness to the same." How refined is the distinction between signing immediately under the testimonium clause, and signing the same terms an inch below it on the same page in the form of a memorandum!

I do not find that any of the cases are inconsistent with the view which I have taken of the subject. If, indeed, it has been settled by judicial authority that, notwithstanding the concluding clause of the will descriptive of the ceremonies, a distinct memorandum of attestation is necessary to satisfy the power, *cadit quæstio*; for there is no such memorandum in this case. I should certainly think it my duty to bow to such authority, for the reasons well stated by my Brother *Alderson*; but I do not find that any such rule has been established; and I do not feel myself called upon to extend an arbitrary principle with respect to the validity of wills executed under powers, by which a disposition of property actually accompanied with all the ceremonies prescribed by the power is to be defeated, and which is at variance with the principle applied to wills executed under the Statute of Frauds. In the case referred to, of *Wright v. Wakeford (a)*, the power was to

(a) 4 Taunt. 213.

make

1839.

DOE dem.
SPILSBURY
against
BURDETT.

Bosanquet J.

make sale by writing under hands and seals attested by witnesses. The testimonium clause stated the instrument to be both signed and sealed; but the attestation was only "*sealed and delivered by*" the testator "*in the presence of*" (the witnesses). And it was held by *Heath, Lawrence, and Chambre Js.*, against *Mansfield C. J.*, that the power was not duly executed for want of attestation of the signing, no mention of signing having been made in the special memorandum of attestation. *Moody v. Reid (a)* was the case of a power to dispose by will signed and published in the presence of, and attested by, two witnesses. The will concluded in these words, "These my last bequeaths *signed by me* this 4th day of February 1812. *Sarah Moodie. Witness, Betty Headington. Jane Headington:*" making no mention of publication. *Gibbs C. J.* said, "The power is to be exercised by a will signed and published. Therefore there must be some publication here: the will must be signed, published, and attested; and there must therefore be some attestation here, of signing and publication." "It is established," by *Wright v. Wakeford (b)*, "that the witnesses must attest every thing that is necessary for the execution of the power. *Here the witnesses have clearly attested the signing*; the question is, whether they have attested the other formality, of publication, in attesting the signing." Now it must be observed that, unless the signature of the witnesses could be coupled with the clause which stated the signing, there was no attestation of that act any more than of the publication. The Chief Justice proceeds, "If the act of the testatrix in calling on the witnesses to attest her will, be a publication

(a) 7 Taunt. 355.; 1 Mad. 516.

(b) 4 Taunt. 213.

of it, then their attesting that she signed it, attests her publication also, because they attest that by which she publishes it." The Court took time to consider of their opinion; and then certified that the will was not a due execution of the power, thereby deciding that *signing her last bequeaths in the presence of witnesses* did not amount to a publication. If the testatrix in that case had in *fact* called upon the witnesses to attest her last bequeaths, or stated that she had done so, that circumstance would have justified them in attesting a publication; but there was nothing to shew, by the attestation, that any thing of the kind had taken place; and the concluding words of the testatrix, "These my last bequeaths signed by me," contain no assertion of her having done an act of publication to which the attestation of the witnesses could be ascribed. She might have signed, and the witnesses might have attested such signature; and yet the testatrix might never have done any thing beyond signing to manifest publication as required by the power. In *Stanhope v. Keir* (a) the power was to dispose by will, signed and published in the presence of, and attested by, witnesses. The will concluded, "This is my last will and testament, made and signed in the year of our Lord 1818, on the 19th day of *November*, at *Gravesend*, in the county of *Kent*. (signed) *Eugenia Keir*, (L. s.) In the presence of" *C. M. L., T. B., A. E.* Sir *John Leach* V. C. said, he could not assume more from the attestation than that *Mrs. Keir* signed the instrument, and that, as the *publication* was not attested, the power was not well executed. Here, again, the Vice-Chancellor treats the

1839.

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Dor dem.
SPILSBURY
against
BURDETT.

Bosanquet J.

(a) 2 Sim. & Stu. 37.

1839.

DOE dem.
SPILSBURY
against
BURDETT.

Bosanquet J.

witnesses as adopting the statement in the testimonium clause, that the will had been signed by the testatrix. If a distinct memorandum of attestation was necessary, the signing was as much unattested as the publication.

Buller v. Burt (a) was the case of a power to dispose by deed sealed and *delivered* in presence of, and attested by, witnesses. The instrument concluded, "Signed and sealed at" &c., "by *L. Smith*, (L. S.) Witness, *John H. Burt. Hannah Bowles.*" Sir *John Leach*, then M. R., held the power not to be well executed, because delivery was not attested. He said that, where the word "witnesses," without more, is used on the attestation, it affirms that all has been done in the presence of the witnesses which is stated in the body of the deed; that, in the body of the deed, it was stated to be signed and sealed, but not stated to have been delivered; and, as the word "witnesses" could affirm no more than the deed stated, there was no attestation of delivery. If, by the body of the deed, the Master of the Rolls must be understood to mean the general contents of the deed, his dictum may well be doubted, since it must assume the witnesses to be acquainted with those contents; but, if he meant only the testimonium clause which immediately preceded the word *witness*, the observation may be just upon the supposition that the witnesses, by subscribing their names after the word witness only, incorporated in their attestation the description of the formalities immediately preceding it.

To suppose that the Master of the Rolls meant more than this, would be inconsistent with his observations in *Stanhope v. Keir (b)*, where, in answer to the argument

(a) See *antè*, p. 944. note (c); *S. C. 6 Nev. & Man.* 281.

(b) *2 Sim. & Stu.* 37.

of counsel that the witnesses by signing had attested a declaration of the testatrix which amounted to a publication, he said, "The argument for the defendant supposes the witnesses to be acquainted with the contents of the will. I cannot assume more from this attestation than that they saw Mrs. *Keir* sign the instrument."

The last case to which I shall refer is *Ward v. Swift (a)*. The power was to appoint by deed &c., or by will duly executed and *published* under hand and seal in the presence of, and attested by, witnesses. The will concluded, "In witness whereof I have set my hand and seal hereto, this 5th day of *August*, A. D. 1801, in the presence of the underwritten, *Mary Swift* (L.S.). Signed, sealed, and *delivered* this 5th day of *August*, 1801, as the last will and testament of the said testatrix, *Mary Swift*, who, in her presence, and in the presence of each other, have put our names as witnesses thereof." This was held by the Court of Exchequer to be a good execution of the power; the delivery of the instrument as a will, which was attested, being justly deemed a publication within the meaning of the power; the word "delivered" in the attestation being very properly held to satisfy the word "published" in the power. In the present case, it appears to me that the word "declared" ought to have the same effect. I am quite aware of the expression of Lord *Eldon* in the case already cited, of *Wright v. Wakeford (b)*, that the meaning of the term "attest" is that the witnesses, by their written attestation, should give evidence to the fact that the instrument was signed as well as sealed; but it certainly is not necessary that they should write any thing but

1839.

DOX dem.
SEILSBURY
against
BURDETT.

Bosanquet J.

(a) 1 Cr. & M. 171. & C. 3 Tyrwh. 122.

(b) 17 Ves. 454.

1839.

DOX dem.
SPILSBURY
against
BURDETT.

Bosanquet J.

their own names, provided their names are subscribed to the written expression of the ceremonies having been observed. So that the question still must be, whether the witnesses have or have not subscribed such written expression of acts done as the power requires; and it must be remarked that all the cases above referred to, in which the simple signatures of the attesting witnesses appear to have been thought referable to the testimonium clause of the will, have occurred since the case of *Wright v. Wakeford (a)*.

In the various cases where the execution of the power has been held insufficient for want of attestation of some particular ceremony, the attestation of that ceremony was either impliedly excluded by the terms of the memorandum of attestation, or there was nothing in the language of the clause descriptive of the ceremony observed in the execution of the instrument to which the signatures, unaccompanied by any memorandum of attestation, could be referred; there is, therefore, no case in point to govern the decision of the Court. It must be borne in mind that the only question is, whether what appears upon the face of the instrument can be fairly construed by the Court to amount to a declaration that the witnesses have attested publication. A determination in the affirmative does not dispense with proof of the fact that the will was actually published, and published in the presence of the witnesses, without which proof the most precise memorandum of attestation would be of no avail.

In this case, it appears by the special verdict that the will was actually published as required. Thinking,

(a) 4 *Taunt.* 213. *S. C.* (in Chancery) 17 *Ves.* 454.

therefore,

therefore, as I do, after the best consideration which I have been able to bestow upon the case, that, consistently both with principle and authority, we are at liberty to hold that the witnesses have attested a *declaration* of the testatrix that the instrument which they subscribed was her last will, as well as that she signed and sealed it, I am of opinion that the power has been duly executed.

1839.

DOX dem.
SPILSBURY
against
BURDETT.

Bosanquet J.

PARKE B. The question in this case is, whether the will of *Lydia Henning Skynner* was a due execution of the power given by the settlement of 4th and 5th December, 1787? It is with great regret that I have come to the conclusion that the power was not duly executed.

Parke B.

The cases of *Wright v. Wakeford* (a), *Doe dem. Hotchkiss v. Pearce* (b), and *Doe dem. Mansfield v. Peach* (c) (which I cannot help considering as unfortunate decisions), have established this rule of construction, that, if the donor of a power requires an instrument to be executed with certain formalities in the presence of, and attested by, witnesses, he must be understood to mean, not merely that the *instrument*, but that all the required *formalities*, shall be attested by the witnesses, and stated by a memorandum in writing to have taken place in their presence: the presumed intention being, that there should be on the face of the instrument itself a memorial that all the conditions necessary to the due execution of the power have been complied with. These decisions have since been followed by others, in which it has been held that a general form of attestation by the use of the word *witnesses* is insufficient where the power

(a) 4 Taunt. 219.

(b) 6 Taunt. 402.

(c) 2 M. & S. 576.

1839.

Doz dem.
SPILSBURY
against
BURDETT.

Parke B.

required a will to be signed, sealed, and *published* in the presence of, and attested by, witnesses, on the ground that there was no attestation of the fact of publication, which is something beyond the mere act of signing and sealing. These are the cases of *Moodie v. Reid* (a), *Stanhope v. Keir* (b), *Buller v. Burt* (c), and *Allen v. Bradshaw* (d); and by these decisions I consider that we are bound; and it would be a most dangerous course to overrule them directly, or to elude their authority by relying on slight and unsatisfactory distinctions, since the rights acquired under them, and titles accepted on the faith of them, might be thereby disturbed. In no branch of the law is it so important as in this to abide by previous decisions. I am compelled, therefore, very reluctantly, and only in consequence of these cases, to say that the present attestation is insufficient, inasmuch as it does not by express words or implication contain a statement that all the *three* requisites of the power were complied with, unless the ground which was taken by the Court of King's Bench, and relied upon in argument in this Court, can be supported.

That ground is, that the witnesses must be taken to attest what is stated in the body of the instrument, and that all the requisites are in this case stated in the body of the instrument to have been performed. I do not think this distinction is satisfactory. It proceeds upon the supposition that the whole instrument may be read together to explain the meaning of the word *witnesses*; which necessarily presumes that the attesting witnesses are cognizant of the contents of the instrument, which in practice they certainly are not; and it would be a

(a) 7 *Taunt.* 355.; 1 *Mad.* 516.

(b) 2 *Sim. & St.* 37.

(c) See *antè*, p. 944. note (c).

(d) 1 *Curt.* 110.

dangerous

dangerous doctrine, with reference to their interests, to assume that they had knowledge of all that is stated therein. *The memorandum of attestation alone is their act.* It may be, as was said by the Attorney-General, that they do not read even this when it is prepared for them, any more than the deed itself; and very often they do not; a course which is very negligent and improper; for witnesses ought not to subscribe a statement which they do not know to be perfectly true: but still it is their act; and, if it expresses all that the donor of the power required, and all was really done, the power is in that respect well executed. But this is no reason for holding that the whole instrument, which they never read in the ordinary course of business, can be referred to, in order to explain the memorandum of attestation, and to shew that the witnesses mean to attest the performance of the required formalities. I must own I have a great difficulty in saying that anything which precedes the signature and seal to the instrument can be connected with, and read as part of, the memorandum of attestation. Even the concluding or witnessing part, the testimonium clause, as it is sometimes called, in which the *maker* of the instrument denotes by some expression that *he* signs and seals in witness of the completion of the instrument, cannot be assumed to be known to the witnesses. But, supposing that it is, this clause in the present case states only the setting the hand and seal of the testatrix to the will, which, according to *Moodie v. Reid* (a), *Stanhope v. Keir* (b), and *Allen v. Bradshaw* (c), &c., is not enough. And, even supposing the memorandum of attestation to be connected with the

1839.

DOE dem.
SPILSBURY
against
BURDETT.

Parke B.

(a) 7 Taunt. 355.; 1 Mad. 516. (b) 2 Sim. & Stu. 37.

(c) 1 Curt. 110.

1839.

DOX dem.
SPILSBURY
against
BURDETT.

Parker B.

whole will, I do not see that the will does in this case state that the formalities were intended to be complied with. It does not appear that the testatrix has declared the will to be hers, or meant so to declare it *in the presence* of the witnesses. I “publish and declare this to be my last will,” in the beginning, and “I declare this only to be my last will” at the end, do not import more than that, *by the act of so writing*, she publishes and declares it to be her will, not that she so publishes and declares it, as an independent act, in the presence of “witnesses.” The expression in *Moodie v. Reid* (a), “these my last bequeaths signed by me,” is equivalent to saying, “I declare these to be my last bequests.” The words in *Stanhope v. Keir* (b), “this *is* my last will and testament,” have the same meaning. So that, even if the whole is read together, the case cannot be satisfactorily distinguished from those authorities.

Even then, if we should adopt the proposition that all the instrument might be read to explain the general term *witnesses*, and that, where the instrument purported, on the face of it, to be intended to be made with all the precise formalities required by the power, so that the donee of the power must have had those formalities distinctly in his mind, the general term *witnesses* must be intended to mean that all those formalities were witnessed by the persons subscribing (a proposition which I do not think can be supported, and for which there is, I believe, no other authority than the dictum of Sir John Leach in *Buller v. Burt* (c)), yet still this instrument does not answer the supposed description; for it does not appear,

(a) 7 Taunt. 355.; 1 Mad. 516.

(b) 2 Sim. & Stu. 37.

(c) See antd, p. 944. Note (c).

by any statement therein, that the maker of it had those precise formalities in contemplation.

I am obliged, therefore, to come to the conclusion that this judgment cannot be supported upon the ground on which it was rested by the Court of King's Bench; and the authority of the decided cases prevents it being sustained on the ground that the general form of attestation implies a statement that the witnesses saw, not only the acts of signing and sealing, but those acts done *as indicative of a completion of the instrument*, which would probably amount to a publication. As long as those cases remain unreversed by the highest tribunal, we are bound by them, though we may doubt or disapprove of the reasons on which they proceeded. I am, therefore, of opinion that the judgment of the Court of King's Bench ought to be reversed.

1839.

Doe dem.
Spilsbury
against
Burdett.

Parke B.

VAUGHAN J. After the able and elaborate judgment delivered by the two learned Barons and my Brother *Coltman*, with whom I concur, perhaps I might abstain from entering upon the reasons which have brought my mind to the same conclusion; but, as the Court below were unanimous in their judgment, which deservedly challenges the highest consideration, I feel it more respectful to state shortly the grounds of my opinion, without minutely investigating or commenting upon the cases which have been cited.

Vaughan J.

The execution of a power derives its validity solely from a compliance with the terms under which it was created; and, when an attestation is required, it is in order that the witnesses may pledge themselves to the fact that those terms have been fulfilled.

The donor of the power, the execution of which we

1839.

DOE dem.
SHEPHERD
against
BURDETT.

Vaughan J.

are now considering, engrafted upon its exercise a condition that it should be appointed by will or codicil to be "signed, sealed, and published in the presence of, and attested by, three or more credible witnesses." And the question is, whether the condition prescribed has been duly performed?

The formalities insisted on by the creator of the power in question, and therefore essential to its proper execution, are of two kinds, which may be separately considered. First, those required to be observed by the appointor; and, secondly, those required to be observed by the witnesses to the appointment. The one must sign, seal, and publish, in *their* presence; the others must *attest*.

First, then, of the witnesses to the appointment. They *must attest*. We are here brought face to face with the first difficulty. What is an *attestation*? The derivation of the word is clear and simple, "testor ad;" and, although I do not find any judicial definition of its meaning, I conceive it to be a *written statement of each separate fact essential to the formal execution of the power, subscribed by the witnesses*. Thus, in the case of *Moodie v. Reid* (a) Gibbs C. J. said, "It is established," by the case of *Wright v. Wakeford* (b), "that the witnesses must attest every thing that is necessary for the execution of the power;" and therefore there must "be some attestation here, of signing and *publication*." And in that case the power was held to be badly executed, because the attestation did not state the *publication*, but only the signing. And in *Doe dem. Mansfield v. Peach* (c) the execution was held bad, because the attestation stated

(a) 7 Taunt. 355.

(b) 4 Taunt. 213.

(c) 2 M. & S. 576.

only sealing and delivering, and not *signing*. But, although in every attestation there must be a written statement of each separate fact essential to the formal execution of the power, yet it does not seem absolutely necessary that such attestation should be contained in an *attestation* clause, or memorandum subsequent to the signature of the appointor, and distinct and separate from the *testimonium* clause. In some cases, where there has been no such separate memorandum, the *testimonium* clause of the will itself has been considered as the attestation clause, and the statements therein contained have been held the same for all purposes of attestation. In the case of *Moodie v. Reid* (a), before cited, there was no separate attestation clause; but the concluding clause in the will ran in the following terms: "These my last bequeaths signed by me this 4th day" &c.; on which followed the signature of the appointor and the witnesses. Here it was held that the signing was attested, and nothing else. The case before us, therefore, so far resembles the case of *Moodie v. Reid* (a) that there is no separate attestation clause; and the will concludes with the following sentence: "In witness whereof I have to this my last will and testament" "set my hand and seal, the 12th day of *September*, in the year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine." This sentence, therefore, may be considered as the attestation clause; and we are thus brought to the question, whether, if this clause contains an insufficient attestation, we can look back to the body of the will in order to aid the imperfection. I conceive not. It has been decided that, where the distinct attest-

1839.

DOX DEM.
SPILSBURY
against
BURDETT.

Vaughan J.

(a) 7 Taunt. 355.

1839.

DOE dem.
SPILSBURY
against
BURDETT.

Vaughan J.

ation clause is imperfect, it cannot be aided by statements in the body of the will. Thus in *Doe dem. Mansfield v. Peach (a)*, where, in order to constitute the execution a sufficient execution, it was necessary that it should be under *hand* and seal, and attested, and the attestation contained a statement of "sealing and delivering" only, although the *body* of the instrument expressly stated it to be *signed* and sealed, yet it was not permitted to call the terms in the *body* of the will in aid of the attestation clause, and the execution was held bad in consequence. If, therefore, the *testimonial* clause is to be considered as the attestation clause, it seems but rational to apply the same rules in the interpretation which would have operated upon the attestation clause itself, had it existed in a separate form. In such case, it would have been impossible to look beyond the clause itself *into the body of the will*, in order to supply expressions necessary to give validity to the appointment: and the same principle, when applied to the testimonial clause, will exclude any terms which are not contained in it, although they might be disclosed in a former part of the instrument, and might be necessary to give the instrument validity. If the rule has been so closely and rigidly adhered to in the case of the attestation clause, we are surely prohibited from extending any special indulgence to the testimonial clause, which is merely its substitute. The jealousy of the law in such cases was exemplified in the case of *Stanhope v. Keir (b)*, in which case there was an attestation clause running in the following terms:— "(Signed) *Eugenia Keir*, (L. s.) In the presence of" *A. B., C. D.* This clause was immediately preceded by

(a) 2 M. & S. 576.

(b) 2 Sim. & Sta. 37.

a sentence thus expressed : " And this is my last will and testament, made and signed in " &c. The Vice-Chancellor refused to consider this sentence as part of the attestation, although immediately preceding and introducing the other. Those cases, which have been decided in a spirit the most liberal and lenient towards the appointor of the power, have not attempted to consider as part of the attestation any statements lying without the testimonium clause. Thus in *Buller v. Burt* (a) the instrument concluded thus : "*Signed and sealed at Cotton aforesaid, this 13th day of September, in the year of our Lord 1813, by L. Smith ;*" then followed the names of the witnesses. It was held in this case that the signing and sealing alone were attested. The Master of the Rolls is reported to have said that, by the subscription of the witnesses, it was affirmed that all had been done which was stated in *the body of the deed*. But we are bound to interpret such general language as *the body of the deed*, both by the manner in which it was applied in *that* case and by the opinion of the same learned Judge, as expressed on other occasions. Thus in the case of *Stanhope v. Keir* (b) he expressly declared that the witnesses could not be held acquainted with the contents of the will. Both statements may be reconciled, by supposing that the learned Judge distinguished between the *body* of the deed (which expressions were evidently intended by him to apply in *Buller v. Burt* (a) to the testimonium clause only) and the contents of the will, as expressed in the judgment in *Stanhope v. Keir* (b), where no separate attestation clause existed.

Having thus stated my opinion that the attestation

1839.

DOE dem.
SPILSBURY
against
BURDETT.
Vaughan J.

(a) See *antè*, p. 944. note (c).

(b) 2 Sim. & Stu. 37.

1889.

DON dem.
SPILSBURY
against
BURDETT.

Vaughan J.

must contain a statement of every fact and formality essential to a due execution of the power, and that such attestation must be found in the testimonium clause (if there be no separate attestation clause), it remains only to apply those principles to the case before us. What are the facts required to be attested? and what are the facts actually attested in the testimonium clause? Signing, sealing, and publishing must be all virtually stated in the attestation. The attestation runs in the following terms: "In witness whereof" (*i. e.* of something forming part of the will, and with which in consequence the witnesses are not acquainted), "I have to this my last will and testament, contained in one sheet, set my hand and seal." It has been suggested, and I wish I could adopt the suggestion, that the words immediately preceding the testimonium clause, *viz. I declare this to be my will*, may be incorporated with and read as part of it. With every inclination to overcome difficulties which are opposed to the justice of the case, I feel myself constrained to withhold my assent to this proposition. I cannot but regard it as a separate and distinct clause in every view. It is written as a separate sentence. In structure and grammatical form it is a separate sentence. The mere fact of its immediately preceding cannot make it the same sentence. By such a method of reasoning, each preceding clause in the will might be considered as part of that which follows; and the whole will would thus become one sentence. In *Stanhope v. Keir* (a), as it has been seen, a sentence of similar import preceded in a similar manner the attestation clause; but the Court refused to look at it.

(a) 2 Sim. & Stu. 37.

If,

If, then, the signing and sealing the will do not in themselves amount to a publication, the statement of signing and sealing the will is no statement of publication. Now it has been expressly decided, in the case of *Moodie v. Reid* (a), that signing the will could not be considered as a publication. "These my last bequeaths signed by me," was the language there used, and there declared insufficient, as an attestation of publication. It is not here necessary to define what publication is, since signing has been held *not* to amount to publication; and, if signing be not, how can sealing be so? It is a much less operative and essential formality in respect of a will than signing is. It is an essential formality as required by the *donor* of the power; but it is only necessary because the *donor* demands it; 3 *Atk.* 161 (b). It cannot have any other force, therefore, than that which he consents to give it; and it is evident that he did not intend that it should be equivalent to publication, since he has required that it should not only be signed and sealed, but published also. It has been held, indeed, that *delivery* is a publication, and in *Ward v. Swift* (c) signing, sealing, and delivering was held to be virtually a publication, and therefore the attestation of signing, sealing, and delivering a virtual attestation of publication: but that case has no application here.

We are here to decide in conformity to a long series of adjudged cases; and it appears to me that the strong current of authorities, comprehending *Wright v. Wake-*

1839.

DOX dem.
SPILSBURY
against
BURDETT.

Vaughan J.

(a) 7 *Taunt.* 355.(b) *Ross v. Ewer*, 3 *Atk.* 156.(c) 1 *Cr. & M.* 171. *S. C.* 3 *Tyrwh.* 122.

1839. *ford* (a), *Doe dem. Mansfield v. Peach* (b), *Buller v.*

DOE dem.
SPILSBURY
against
BURDETT.

Burt (c), *Moodie v. Reid* (d), *Stanhope v. Keir* (e), *Doe*

dem. Hotchkiss v. Pearce (g), *Ward v. Swift* (h), to which

Vaughan J. may be added *Allen v. Bradshaw* (i) (in which a very able and elaborate judgment was delivered in the Prerogative Court by Sir *Herbert Jenner* in 1835), are all in accordance with each other, nor do I find any one case militating against them.

Whether these decisions proceeded upon narrow grounds, and whether a more liberal construction would not have more effectually promoted the administration of justice, it is now too late to inquire. We are called upon "*jus dicere non jus dare*;" and, as I have ever thought that a *private* mischief should be endured rather than a *public inconvenience* which follows as a consequence from stretching the law beyond its natural tone in order to counteract the hardship of an individual case, I feel reluctantly compelled to declare my opinion that, in the present instance, there has been no sufficient attestation of the fact of publication; and, consequently, that the appointment is void, and that the judgment below should be reversed.

Tindal C. J. TINDAL C. J. Upon the question arising on this special verdict, and upon which the Judges who heard the argument in this Court differ in opinion, the conclusion at which my mind has arrived is that the power created by the settlement set out in the special verdict

(a) 4 *Taunt.* 213.

(b) 2 *M. & S.* 576.

(c) See *antè*, p. 944. note (c).

(d) 7 *Taunt.* 355.; 1 *Mad.* 516.

(e) 2 *Sim. & St.* 37.

(g) 6 *Taunt.* 402.

(h) 1 *Cr. & M.* 171. *S. C.* 3 *Tyrwh.* 122.

(i) 1 *Curt.* 110.

has been well executed by the testatrix, and that the judgment of the Court below ought to be affirmed.

In order to constitute a good execution of the power set forth in the verdict, the will must not only, in point of fact, have been "signed, sealed, and published in the presence of" three or more credible witnesses, but it must also have been *attested* by them; that is, it must appear from the signature of those witnesses to an express memorandum to that effect, at the foot or back of the will, or must be imported into such memorandum by necessary intendment from what is written on the will, that the witnesses were present at, and actually saw, the performance of those several requisites which, on the part of the donor of the power, have been required to be observed. No doubt exists, in this case, as to the *fact*: the special verdict expressly finds that all the requisites contained in the settlement by which the power is created were duly observed: the only question, therefore, for our consideration is, whether the attestation by the three witnesses is sufficient or not.

The will in question, after it has completely finished all the testamentary appointments and bequests made therein, concludes thus, "I declare *this* only to be my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have to *this* my last will and testament, contained in one sheet, set my hand and seal, the 12th day of *September*, in the year of our Lord 1789. *Lydia Henning Skynner* (L.S.)." And, very little below the last line of the will, and near to the signature of the testatrix, the word "witness" is found to have been written, beneath which all the witnesses have subscribed their names.

Now it has not been contended that any particular
form

1839.

DOE dem.
SPILABURY
against
BURDETT.

Tindal C. J.

1839.

DOE dem.
SPILSBURY
against
BURDETT.

Tindal C. J.

form of publication of a will is necessary to satisfy such a requisition; and undoubtedly it appears, so far as any authority can be found on the subject, that, if the testator openly declares in the presence of the witnesses that the paper, which the witnesses are called upon to attest, was his will, it is a sufficient publication. Supposing, therefore, that the declaration of the testatrix, at the conclusion of her will, can by law be considered as part of, and to be imported into, the memorandum which the witnesses signed, such declaration may be taken in itself to amount in law to a publication of the will.

In considering whether such construction may be made or not, I would first observe that the instrument itself appears to consist of two distinct parts; first, of a will properly so called, containing appointments and testamentary bequests with which the will finishes; next, and immediately following, but perfectly distinguishable from the former part, of a declaration in writing by the testatrix of the ceremonies observed by her touching the making of this will. When the testatrix says, "I declare *this* only to be my last will and testament," she must be taken to speak of so much of the written paper as has preceded this declaration, and which comprises her testamentary dispositions; and, when she continues, "In witness *whereof* I have to this my last will and testament" "set my hand and seal," she must, according to the plain and ordinary meaning of the words, be speaking of the same will: and, even if the word "*whereof*" is to be confined strictly to the declaration which has immediately preceded, it appears to me to make no real difference; for there appears, on either supposition, a direct allegation upon the face of the will, by the testatrix

trix herself, that she publishes her will, and that she signs and seals her will: she affirms, upon the face of the will, that she performs all three ceremonials: and, as the general word "witness" excludes nothing, the three witnesses, by putting their names under it, attest the performance of the publication, the signing, and the sealing of the will.

Against this mode of construction the first objection urged is, that the witnesses to a deed or will are not to be assumed to know the contents thereof.

It may be granted that such is the rule of law; but the answer to this objection is, that they are not assumed to know the contents of the will, properly so called, but only the allegations, contained at the end of it, of the ceremonials observed in its execution, allegations which must have been made in order that the witnesses should know them. In the case of *Buller v. Burt* (a), which was decided by Sir *John Leach* when Master of the Rolls, and has been often referred to in the course of the argument, no such objection was allowed; on the contrary, the decision of that case turned expressly upon the reference made to the body of the deed. That learned judge says, "it must follow that when the word, 'witnesses,' without more, is used in the attestation, it affirms that all has been done in the presence of the witnesses which is stated in the body of the deed." In that case, in the body of the deed the only statement was, that it had been signed and sealed; no statement was made that it had been delivered; and it was upon that express ground held that, as the general word "witnesses" can affirm no more than the deed states, there

1839.

DOX dem.
SPILSBURY
against
BURDETT.

Tindal C. J.

(a) See *antè*, p. 944. note (c).

1839.

DOX dem.
SINCE
against
BUTTER.

Tindal C. J.

was not, in that case, any attestation of the delivery, and consequently that the power was not well executed.

In that case, the Master of the Rolls refers to the body of the deed to restrain the application of the word *witnesses* to the particular ceremonials mentioned in the deed, for the purpose of shewing that the power had not been duly executed; and shall not a similar reference be made, in this case, for the purpose of setting up and supporting its execution?

The case, again, of *Moodie v. Reid* (a) is to the same effect, where the generality of the word *witness* was held to be restrained to an attestation of signature only, by reason of the word "signed," which occurs in the body of the will.

The case of *Stanhope v. Keir* (b) was decided by Sir John Leach on the same principle, against the due execution of the power, though it seems very difficult to reconcile with his judgment in *Buller v. Burt* (c) what is reported to have fallen from him in *Stanhope v. Keir* (b), viz., "The argument for the defendant supposes the witnesses to be *acquainted with the contents of the will*. I cannot assume more from this attestation than that they saw Mrs. Keir sign the instrument."

Suppose in the present case, instead of the word *witnesses*, written at the foot of the will, there had been written, by way of memorandum, the very same words which are found at the conclusion of the will itself, "Declared by the testatrix as her last will and testament; in witness whereof she has to this her last will and testament set her hand and seal." I think it must have been deemed beyond all doubt a sufficient attest-

(a) 7 Taunt. 355.

(b) 2 Sim. & Stu. 37.

(c) See *antè*, p. 944. note (c).

ation of the publishing, of the signing, and of the sealing, of that identical instrument; and I cannot make a sound distinction between such a case and the present, where the reference to the conclusion of the will itself must, according to the cases, be necessarily made.

Upon these grounds, I think the attestation sufficient, and that the judgment of the Queen's Bench is right, and ought to be affirmed.

The majority of this Court, however, is of opinion that the judgment ought to be reversed; and I may add that the two other learned Judges, who heard this case argued, and who are no longer on the bench, were divided in opinion: the decision of this Court, therefore, would have been the same if they had been present.

Judgments reversed (a).

(a) As to wills made on or after 1st January 1838, see stat. 7 W. 4. & 1 Vict. c. 26. ss. 9, 10.

1839.

DON dem.
SPILSBURY
against
BUNDITT.

Tindal C. J.

1839.

REGULA GENERALIS.

FORMS OF WRITS.

IT IS ORDERED, That the following forms of writs, framed by the Judges pursuant to the statute 1 & 2 *Vict. c. 110. s. 20.*, be used from and after the first day or *March* next, with such alterations as the nature of the action, the description of the court in which the action is depending, the character of the parties, or the circumstances of the case may render necessary, but that any variance, not being in matter of substance, shall not affect the validity of the writs sued out.

No. I.

Writ of elegit upon a judgment in the Court of Q. B., in an action of assumpsit.

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain and Ireland* Queen, Defender of the Faith, to the sheriff of —, greeting. Whereas *A. B.*, lately in our court before us at *Westminster*, by the judgment of the same court, recovered against *C. D. £—*, which, in our said court before us, were adjudged to the said *A. B.* for his damages which he had sustained, as well on occasion of the not performing of certain promises and undertakings then lately made by the said *C. D.* to the said *A. B.*, as for his costs and charges by him about his suit in that behalf expended, whereof the said *C. D.* is convicted, as appears to us of record, and afterwards the said *A. B.* came into our said court before us, and, according to the form of the statutes in such case made and provided, chose to be delivered to him all the goods and chattels of the said *C. D.* in your bailiwick, except his oxen and beasts of the plough, and also all such lands, tenements, rectories, tithes, rents, and hereditaments, including lands and hereditaments of copyhold or customary tenure, in your bailiwick, as the said *C. D.*, or any person in trust for him, was seised or possessed of on the — day of —, in the year of our Lord —, on which day the judgment aforesaid was entered up, or at any time afterwards, or over which the said *C. D.* on the said — day

1839.
—

day of — (a), or at any time afterwards, had any disposing power which he might, without the assent of any other person, exercise for his own benefit, to hold to him the said goods and chattels as his proper goods and chattels, and to hold the said lands, tenements, rectories, tithes, rents, and hereditaments respectively, according to the nature and tenure thereof, to him and to his assigns, according to the form of the said statutes, until the damages aforesaid, together with interest upon the said sum of £—, at the rate of £4 *per centum* per annum, from the — day of —, in the year of our Lord — (b), shall have been levied. Therefore we command you that without delay you cause to be delivered to the said *A. B.*, by a reasonable price and extent, all the goods and chattels of the said *C. D.* in your bailiwick, except his oxen and beasts of the plough, and also all such lands, tenements, rectories, tithes, rents, and hereditaments, including layds and hereditaments of copyhold or customary tenure, in your bailiwick, as the said *C. D.*, or any person in trust for him, was seized or possessed of on the said — day of — (a), or at any time afterwards, or over which the said *C. D.* on the said — day of — (a), or at any time afterwards, had any disposing power which he might, without the assent of any other person, exercise for his own benefit, to hold the said goods and chattels to the said *A. B.* as his proper goods and chattels; and also to hold the said lands, tenements, rectories, tithes, rents, and hereditaments respectively, according to the nature and tenure thereof, to him and to his assigns, until the damages aforesaid, together with interest as aforesaid, shall have been levied. And in what manner you shall have executed this our writ, make appear to us at *Westminster*, immediately after the execution thereof, under your seal, and the seals of those by whose oath you shall make the said extent and appraisement, and have there then this writ.

Witness, *Thomas Lord Denman*, at *Westminster*, the — day of —, in the year of our Lord —.

No. II.

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith, to the sheriff of —, greeting. Whereas lately in our court before us at *Westminster*, by a rule of the said court entitled &c. [*as the case may be*], the sum of £— was, by the said court, ordered to be paid by *C. D.* to *A. B.*, and afterwards the said *A. B.* came into our said court before us, and, according to the form of the statute in such case made and provided, chose to be

Writ of elegit on a rule made in the Court of Q. B. for payment of money.

(a) The day on which the judgment was entered up.

(b) The day on which the judgment was entered up; or, in case the judgment was entered up prior to the 1st of October 1838, say from the 1st day of October, in the year of our Lord 1838.

1839.
—

delivered to him all the goods and chattels of the said *C. D.* in your bailiwick, except his oxen and beasts of the plough, and also all such lands, tenements, rectories, tithes, rents, and hereditaments, including lands and hereditaments of copyhold or customary tenure, in your bailiwick, as the said *C. D.*, or any person in trust for him, was seised or possessed of on the — day of —, in the year of our Lord —, on which day the said rule was made, or at any time afterwards, or over which the said *C. D.* on the said — day of — (a), or at any time afterwards, had any disposing power which he might, without the assent of any other person, exercise for his own benefit, to hold to him the said goods and chattels as his proper goods and chattels, and to hold the said lands, tenements, rectories, tithes, rents, and hereditaments respectively, according to the nature and tenure thereof, to him and to his assigns, until the said sum of £—, together with interest upon the said sum of £—, at the rate of £4 *per centum* per annum, from the said — day of —, in the year of our Lord — (b), shall have been levied. Therefore we command you that without delay you cause to be delivered to the said *A. B.*, by a reasonable price and extent, all the goods and chattels of the said *C. D.* in your bailiwick, except his oxen and beasts of the plough, and also all such lands, tenements, rectories, tithes, rents, and hereditaments, including lands and hereditaments of copyhold or customary tenure, in your bailiwick, as the said *C. D.*, or any person in trust for him, was seised or possessed of on the said — day of — (a), or at any time afterwards, or over which the said *C. D.* on the said — day of — (a), or at any time afterwards, had any disposing power which he might, without the assent of any other person, exercise for his own benefit, to hold the said goods and chattels to the said *A. B.* as his proper goods and chattels, and also to hold the said lands, tenements, rectories, tithes, rents, and hereditaments respectively, according to the nature and tenure thereof, to him and to his assigns, until the said sum of £—, together with interest as aforesaid, shall have been levied. And in what manner you shall have executed this our writ, make appear to us at *Westminster*, immediately after the execution thereof, under your seal, and the seals of those by whose oath you shall make the said extent and appraisement, and have there then this writ.

Witness, *Thomas Lord Denman*, at *Westminster*, the — day of —, in the year of our Lord —.

(a) The day on which the rule was made.

(b) The day on which the rule was made; or, in case it was made prior to the 1st of *October* 1838, say from the 1st day of *October*, in the year of our Lord 1838.

1839.

No. III.

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith, to the sheriff of —, greeting. Whereas, lately in our court before us at Westminster, by a rule of the said court, entitled &c. [as the case may be], the sum of £— was, by the said court, ordered to be paid by C. D. to A. B., together with the costs of the said rule, which said costs were afterwards, on the — day of —, taxed and allowed by our said court at the sum of £—. And afterwards the said A. B. came into our said court before us, and, according to the form of the statute in such case made and provided, chose to be delivered to him all the goods and chattels of the said C. D. in your bailiwick, except his oxen and beasts of the plough, and also all such lands, tenements, rectories, tithes, rents, and hereditaments, including lands and hereditaments of copyhold or customary tenure, in your bailiwick, as the said C. D., or any one in trust for him, was seized or possessed of on the — day of — in the year of our Lord — (a), or at any time afterwards, or over which the said C. D. on the said — day of — (a), or at any time afterwards, had any disposing power which he might, without the assent of any other person, exercise for his own benefit, to hold to him the said goods and chattels as his proper goods and chattels, and to hold the said lands, tenements, rectories, tithes, rents, and hereditaments respectively, according to the nature and tenure thereof, to him and to his assigns, until the said two several sums of £— and £—, together with interest upon the said two several sums of £— and £—, at the rate of *£4 per centum* per annum, from the said — day of — (b), shall have been levied. Therefore we command you that without delay you cause to be delivered to the said A. B., by a reasonable price and extent, all the goods and chattels of the said C. D. in your bailiwick, except his oxen and beasts of the plough, and also all such lands, tenements, rectories, tithes, rents, and hereditaments, including lands and hereditaments of copyhold or customary tenure, in your bailiwick, as the said C. D., or any person in trust for him, was seized or possessed of on the said — day of — (a), or at any time afterwards, or over which the said C. D. on the said — day of — (a), or at any time afterwards, had any disposing power which he might, without the assent of any other person, exercise for his own benefit, to hold the said goods and chattels to the said A. B. as his proper goods and chattels; and also to hold the said lands, tenements, rectories, tithes, rents, and hereditaments

Writ of elegit on a rule made in the Court of Q. B. for payment of money and costs.

(a) The day on which the costs of the rule were taxed.

(b) The day on which the costs of the rule were taxed; or, in case that day were prior to the 1st of October 1838, say from the 1st day of October, in the year of our Lord 1838.

1839.

respectively, according to the nature and tenure thereof, to him and to his assigns, until the said two several sums of £—— and £——, together with interest as aforesaid, shall have been levied. And in what manner you shall have executed this our writ, make appear to us at *Westminster*, immediately after the execution thereof, under your seal, and the seals of those by whose oath you shall make the said extent and appraisement, and have there then this writ.

Witness, *Thomas Lord Denman*, at *Westminster*, the —— day of ——, in the year of our Lord ——.

No. IV.

Writ of elegit
on a judgment
of an inferior
court in an
action of as-
sumpsit re-
moved into the
Court of Q. B.

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith, to the sheriff of ——, greeting. Whereas *A. B.*, lately in [*insert the style of the court*], by the judgment of the said court, recovered against *C. D.* the sum of £——, which, in the said court, were adjudged to the said *A. B.* for his damages which he had sustained, as well on occasion of the not performing of certain promises and undertakings, then lately made by the said *C. D.* to the said *A. B.*, as for his costs and charges by him about his suit in that behalf expended, whereof the said *C. D.* is convicted, as appears to us of record. And whereas the said judgment was afterwards, on the —— day of ——, in the year of our Lord ——, removed into our court before us at *Westminster*, by virtue of an order of our said court before us at *Westminster* [*or of ——, one of the Justices of our said court before us at Westminster, as the case may be*], in pursuance of the statute in that case made and provided, and the costs attendant upon the application for the said order and upon the said removal were afterwards, on the —— day of ——, in the year of our Lord ——, taxed and allowed by our said court before us at *Westminster* at the sum of £——; and afterwards the said *A. B.* came into our said court before us at *Westminster*, and, according to the form of the statute in such case made and provided, chose to be delivered to him all the goods and chattels of the said *C. D.* in your bailiwick, except his oxen and beasts of the plough, and also all such lands, tenements, rectories, tithes, rents, and hereditaments, including lands and hereditaments of copyhold or customary tenure, in your bailiwick, as the said *C. D.*, or any person in trust for him, was seized or possessed of on the said —— day of ——, in the year of our Lord —— aforesaid (a), or at any time afterwards, or over which the said *C. D.*, on the said —— day of —— (a), or at any time afterwards, had any disposing power which he might, without the assent of any other person, exercise for his own benefit, to hold to him the said goods and chattels as his proper goods and chattels, and to hold the said lands,

(a) The day on which the costs of removing the judgment were taxed.

1839.

tenements, rectories, tithes, rents, and hereditaments respectively, according to the nature and tenure thereof, to him and to his assigns, until the damages aforesaid and the said costs so taxed and allowed by our said court before us at *Westminster* as aforesaid, together with interest upon the said two several sums of £— and £—, at the rate of £4 *per centum* per annum, from the — day of — aforesaid (a), shall have been levied. Therefore we command you that without delay you cause to be delivered to the said *A. B.*, by a reasonable price and extent, all the goods and chattels of the said *C. D.*, in your bailiwick, except his oxen and beasts of the plough, and also all such lands, tenements, rectories, tithes, rents, and hereditaments, including lands and hereditaments of copyhold or customary tenure, in your bailiwick, as the said *C. D.*, or any one in trust for him, was seised or possessed of on the said — day of — (a), or at any time afterwards, or over which the said *C. D.*, on the said — day of — (a), or at any time afterwards, had any disposing power which he might, without the assent of any other person, exercise for his own benefit, to hold the said goods and chattels to the said *A. B.* as his proper goods and chattels; and also to hold the said lands, tenements, rectories, tithes, rents, and hereditaments respectively, according to the nature and tenure thereof, to him and to his assigns, until the damages aforesaid, and the said costs so taxed and allowed by our said court before us at *Westminster* as aforesaid, and interest as aforesaid, shall have been levied. And in what manner you shall have executed this our writ, make appear to us at *Westminster*, immediately after the execution thereof, under your seal, and the seals of those by whose oath you shall make the said extent and appraisement, and have there then this writ.

Witness, *Thomas Lord Denman*, at *Westminster*, the — day of —, in the year of our Lord —.

No. V.

VICTORIA, &c., to the sheriff of —, greeting. Whereas lately in [insert the style of the court], by a rule of the said court entitled &c. [as the case may be], the sum of £— were by the said court ordered to be paid by *C. D.* to *A. B.*, and whereas the said rule was afterwards, on the — day of —, in the year of our Lord —, removed into our court before us at *Westminster*, by virtue of an order of our said court before us at *Westminster* [or of —, one of the Justices of our said court before us at *Westminster*, as the case may be], in pursuance of the statute in that case made and provided, and the costs attendant upon the application for the said last-mentioned order and upon the said removal were afterwards,

Writ of elegit on an order for payment of money made in an inferior court and removed into the Court of Q. B.

(a) The day on which the costs of removing the judgment were taxed.

1839.

on the — day of —, in the year of our Lord —, taxed and allowed in our said court before us at *Westminster* at the sum of £ —, and afterwards the said *A. B.* came into our said court before us at *Westminster*, and, according to the form of the statute in such case made and provided, chose to be delivered to him all the goods and chattels of the said *C. D.* in your bailiwick, except his oxen and beasts of the plough, and also all such lands, tenements, rectories, tithes, rents, and hereditaments, including lands and hereditaments of copyhold or customary tenure, in your bailiwick, as the said *C. D.*, or any person in trust for him, was seised or possessed of on the said — day of —, in the year of our Lord — (a), or at any time afterwards, or over which the said *C. D.* on the said — day of — (a), or at any time afterwards, had any disposing power which he might, without the assent of any other person, exercise for his own benefit, to hold to him the said goods and chattels as his proper goods and chattels, and to hold the said lands, tenements, rectories, tithes, rents, and hereditaments respectively, according to the nature and tenure thereof, to him and to his assigns, until the said two several sums of £ — and £ —, together with interest on the said two several sums of £ — and £ —, at the rate of £4 *per centum per annum*, from the said — day of — (a), shall have been levied. Therefore we command you that without delay you cause to be delivered to the said *A. B.*, by a reasonable price and extent, all the goods and chattels of the said *C. D.* in your bailiwick, except his oxen and beasts of the plough, and also all such lands, tenements, rectories, tithes, rents, and hereditaments, including lands and hereditaments of copyhold or customary tenure, in your bailiwick, as the said *C. D.*, or any one in trust for him, was seised or possessed of on the said — day of — (a), or at any time afterwards, or over which the said *C. D.* on the — day of — (a), or at any time afterwards, had any disposing power which he might, without the assent of any other person, exercise for his own benefit, to hold the said goods and chattels to the said *A. B.* as his proper goods and chattels, and also to hold the said lands, tenements, rectories, tithes, rents, and hereditaments respectively, according to the nature and tenure thereof, to him and to his assigns, until the said two several sums of £ — and £ —, together with interest as aforesaid, shall have been levied. And in what manner you shall have executed this our writ, make appear to us at *Westminster*, immediately after the execution thereof, under your seal, and the seals of those by whose oath you shall make the said extent and appraisement, and have you there then this writ.

Witness, *Thomas Lord Denman*, at *Westminster*, the — day of —, in the year of our Lord —.

(a) The day on which the costs of removing the rule of the inferior court into the Court of Q. B. were taxed.

No. VI.

1839.

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith, to the sheriff of —, greeting. Whereas lately in [insert the style of the court], by a rule of the said court, entitled &c. [as the case may be], the sum of £— was by the said court ordered to be paid by C. D. to A. B. together with the costs of the said rule, which said costs were afterwards, on the — day of —, in the year of our Lord —, taxed and allowed by the said court, at the sum of £—, and whereas the said rule was afterwards, on the — day of —, in the year of our Lord —, removed into our court before us at Westminster, by virtue of an order of our said court before us at Westminster [or of —, one of the Justices of our said court before us at Westminster, as the case may be], in pursuance of the statute in that case made and provided, and the costs and charges attendant upon the application for the said last-mentioned order, and upon the said removal, were afterwards on the — day of —, in the year of our Lord —, taxed and allowed in our said court before us at the sum of £—, and afterwards the said A. B. came into our said court before us at Westminster, and, according to the form of the statute in such case made and provided, chose to be delivered to him all the goods and chattels of the said C. D. in your bailiwick, except his oxen and beasts of the plough, and also all such lands, tenements, rectories, tithes, rents, and hereditaments, including lands and hereditaments of copyhold or customary tenure, in your bailiwick, as the said C. D., or any person in trust for him, was seised or possessed of on the said — day of — (a), or at any time afterwards, or over which the said C. D. on the said — day of — (a), or at any time afterwards, had any disposing power which he might, without the assent of any other person, exercise for his own benefit, to hold to him the said goods and chattels as his proper goods and chattels, and to hold the said lands, tenements, rectories, tithes, rents, and hereditaments respectively, according to the nature and tenure thereof, to him and to his assigns until the said three several sums of £—, and £—, and £—, together with interest upon the said three several sums of £—, and £—, and £—, at the rate of £4 per centum per annum, from the said — day of — (a), shall have been levied. Therefore we command you that without delay you cause to be delivered to the said A. B., by a reasonable price and extent, all the goods and chattels of the said C. D. in your bailiwick, except his oxen and beasts of the plough, and also all such lands, tenements, rectories, tithes, rents, and hereditaments, including lands and hereditaments of copyhold or customary tenure, in your bailiwick, as the said C. D. or any person

Writ of elegit
on a rule for
payment of
money and
costs made in
an inferior
court and re-
moved into
Q. B.

(a) The day on which the costs of removing the rule of the inferior court into the Court of Q. B. were taxed.

1839.

in trust for him was seised, or possessed of on the said — day of — (a), or at any time afterwards, or over which the said *C. D.* on the said — day of — (a), or at any time afterwards, had any disposing power which he might without the assent of any other person exercise for his own benefit, to hold the said goods and chattels to the said *A. B.* as his proper goods and chattels, and also to hold the said lands, tenements, rectories, tithes, rents, and hereditaments respectively, according to the nature and tenure thereof, to him and to his assigns, until the said three several sums of £—, and £—, and £—, together with interest as aforesaid, shall have been levied. And in what manner you shall have executed this our writ, make appear to us at *Westminster*, immediately after the execution thereof, under your seal, and the seals of those by whose oath you shall make the said extent and appraisement, and have there then this writ.

Witness, *Thomas Lord Denman*, at *Westminster*, the — day of —, in the year of our Lord —.

No. VII.

Writ of fieri facias on a judgment in the Court of Q. B. in an action of assumpsit.

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain and Ireland* Queen, Defender of the Faith, to the sheriff of —, greeting. We command you that of the goods and chattels of *C. D.* in your bailiwick you cause to be made £— which *A. B.* lately in our court before us at *Westminster* recovered against him for his damages which he had sustained, as well on occasion of the not performing certain promises and undertakings then lately made by the said *C. D.* to the said *A. B.*, as for his costs and charges by him about his suit in that behalf expended, whereof the said *C. D.* is convicted, as appears to us of record, together with interest upon the said sum of £—, at the rate of £4 *per centum* per annum, from the — day of —, in the year of our Lord — (b), on which day the judgment aforesaid was entered up, and have that money with such interest as aforesaid before us at *Westminster*, immediately after the execution hereof, to be rendered to the said *A. B.* for his damages and interest as aforesaid, and that you do all such things as by the statute passed in the second year of our reign you are authorised and required to do in this behalf. And in what manner you shall have executed this our writ make appear to us at *Westminster*, immediately after the execution thereof, and have there then this writ.

Witness, *Thomas Lord Denman*, at *Westminster*, on the — day of —, in the year of our Lord —.

(a) The day on which the costs of removing the rule of the inferior court into the Court of Q. B. were taxed.

(b) The day on which the judgment was entered up; or, if entered up prior to the 1st of *October* 1838, say from the 1st day of *October*, in the year of our Lord 1838, omitting the words "on which day the judgment aforesaid was entered up."

1839.

[No. VIII.]

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain and Ireland* Queen, Defender of the Faith, to the sheriff of —, greeting. We command you, that of the goods and chattels of *C. D.* in your bailiwick you cause to be made £—, which lately, in our court before us at *Westminster*, by a rule of our said court entitled &c. [as the case may be], were by the said court ordered to be paid by the said *C. D.* to *A. B.*, and that of the said goods and chattels of the said *C. D.* in your bailiwick you further cause to be made interest upon the said sum of £—, at the rate of *£4 per centum* per annum from the — day of —, in the year of our Lord — (a), on which day the said rule was made, and have that money, together with such interest as aforesaid, before us at *Westminster*, immediately after the execution hereof, to be rendered to the said *A. B.* for the said sum of money so ordered to be paid by the said *C. D.* to the said *A. B.*, and for interest as aforesaid, and that you do all such things as by the statute passed in the second year of our reign you are authorised and required to do in this behalf. And in what manner you shall have executed this our writ make appear to us at *Westminster*, immediately after the execution thereof, and have there then this writ.

Writ of fieri facias on an order of the Court of Q. B. for payment of money.

Witness, *Thomas Lord Denman*, at *Westminster*, on the — day of —, in the year of our Lord —.

No. IX.

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain and Ireland* Queen, Defender of the Faith, to the sheriff of —, greeting. We command you that of the goods and chattels of *C. D.* in your bailiwick you cause to be made £—, which lately in our court before us at *Westminster*, by a rule of our said court, entitled &c. [as the case may be], were by the said court ordered to be paid by the said *C. D.* to *A. B.*, together with the costs of the said rule, which said costs were afterwards, on the — day of —, in the year of our Lord —, taxed and allowed by our said court at the sum of £—, and that of the said goods and chattels of the said *C. D.* in your bailiwick you further cause to be made interest upon the said two several sums of £— and £—, at the rate of *£4 per centum* per annum, from the said — day of —, in the year of our Lord — (b), and have that money,

Writ of fieri facias on an order of the Court of Q. B. for payment of money and costs.

(a) The day on which the rule was made; or, if it were made prior to the 1st of *October* 1838, say from the 1st day of *October*, in the year of our Lord 1838, omitting the words "on which day the said rule was made."

(b) The day on which the costs of the rule were taxed; or, if that were prior to the 1st of *October* 1838, say from the 1st day of *October* in the year of our Lord 1838.

together

1839.

together with such interest as aforesaid, before us at *Westminster*, immediately after the execution hereof, to be rendered to the said *A. B.* for the said sum of money so ordered to be paid by the said *C. D.* to the said *A. B.* and for costs and interest as aforesaid, and that you do all such things as by the statute passed in the second year of our reign you are authorised and required to do in this behalf. And in what manner you shall have executed this our writ make appear to us at *Westminster*, immediately after the execution thereof, and have there then this writ.

Witness, *Thomas Lord Denman*, at *Westminster*, on the — day of —, in the year of our Lord —.

No. X.

Writ of fieri facias on a judgment of an inferior court in an action of assumpsit, removed into the Court of Q. B.

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain and Ireland* Queen, Defender of the Faith, to the sheriff of —, greeting. We command you that of the goods and chattels of *C. D.* in your bailiwick you cause to be made £—, which *A. B.* lately in [*insert the style of the court*], by the judgment of the said court, recovered against the said *C. D.* for his damages which he had sustained, as well on occasion of the not performing certain promises and undertakings then lately made by the said *C. D.* to the said *A. B.*, as for his costs and charges by him about his suit in that behalf expended, whereof the said *C. D.* is convicted, as appears to us of record, and which judgment was afterwards, on the — day of —, in the year of our Lord —, removed into our court before us at *Westminster*, by virtue of an order of our said court before us at *Westminster* [*or of —, one of the Justices of our said court before us at Westminster, as the case may be*], in pursuance of the statute in such case made and provided, and the costs attendant upon the application for the said order, and upon the said removal, were, on the — day of —, in the year of our Lord —, taxed and allowed by our said court before us at *Westminster* at the sum of £—. And we further command you that of the said goods and chattels of the said *C. D.* in your bailiwick you further cause to be made the said sum of £— (a), together with interest on the said two several sums of £— and £—, at the rate of *£4 per centum* per annum, from the said — day of —, in the year of our Lord — (b); and that you have that money, with such interest as aforesaid, before us at *Westminster*, immediately after the execution hereof, to be rendered to the said *A. B.* for his damages aforesaid, and for costs and interest as aforesaid; and that you do all such things as by the statute passed in the second year of our reign you are authorised and required to do in this behalf. And in what manner you shall have executed this our writ make appear to us at

(a) The costs attendant upon the removal of the judgment out of the inferior court into the Court of Q. B.

(b) The day on which the costs of removal were taxed.

Westminster,

Westminster, immediately after the execution thereof, and have there then this writ.

1839.

Witness, *Thomas Lord Denman*, at *Westminster*, on the — day of —, in the year of our Lord —.

No. XI.

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain and Ireland* Queen, Defender of the Faith, to the sheriff of —, greeting. We command you, that of the goods and chattels of *C. D.* in your bailiwick you cause to be made £—, which lately in [insert the style of the court], by a rule of the said court, entitled &c. [as the case may be], were by the said court ordered to be paid by the said *C. D.* to *A. B.*, and which rule was afterwards, on the — day of —, in the year of our Lord —, removed into our court before us at *Westminster*, by virtue of an order of our said court before us at *Westminster* [or of —, one of the Justices of our said court before us at *Westminster*, as the case may be], in pursuance of the statute in that case made and provided, and the costs attendant upon the application for the said last-mentioned order and upon the said removal were, on the — day of — in the year of our Lord —, taxed and allowed by our said court before us at *Westminster* at the sum of £—. And we further command you, that of the said goods and chattels of the said *C. D.* in your bailiwick you further cause to be made the said sum of £— (a), together with interest on the said two several sums of £— and £—, at the rate of £4 per centum per annum, from the said — day of — (b), and that you have that money, with such interest as aforesaid, before us at *Westminster*, immediately after the execution hereof, to be rendered to the said *A. B.* for the said monies by the said rule first above mentioned ordered to be paid by the said *C. D.* to the said *A. B.*, and for costs and interest as aforesaid; and that you do all such things as by the statute passed in the second year of our reign you are authorised and required to do in this behalf. And in what manner you shall have executed this our writ make appear to us at *Westminster*, immediately after the execution thereof, and have there then this writ.

Writ of fieri facias on an order for payment of money made in an inferior court, and removed into the Court of Q. B.

Witness, *Thomas Lord Denman*, at *Westminster*, on the — day of —, in the year of our Lord —.

No. XII.

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain and Ireland* Queen, Defender of the Faith, to the sheriff of —, greeting. Writ of fieri facias on an

(a) The costs of removing the rule of the inferior court into the Court of Q. B.

(b) The day on which the costs of removing the rule of the inferior court into the Court of Q. B. were taxed.

greeting.

1839.

order for payment of money and costs made in an inferior court and removed into the Court of Q. B.

greeting. We command you that of the goods and chattels of *C. D.* in your bailiwick you cause to be made £—, which lately in [*insert the style of the court*], by a rule of the said court, entitled &c. [*as the case may be*], were by the said court ordered to be paid by the said *C. D.* to *A. B.*, and also £— for the costs of the said rule by the said court also ordered to be paid by the said *C. D.* to the said *A. B.*, which said rule was afterwards, on the — day of —, in the year of our Lord —, removed into our court before us at *Westminster*, by an order of our said court before us at *Westminster*, [*or of —, one of the Justices of our said court before us at Westminster, as the case may be*], in pursuance of the statute in such case made and provided, and the costs attendant upon the application for the said last-mentioned order and upon the said removal were, on the — day of —, in the year of our Lord —, taxed and allowed by our said court before us at *Westminster* at the sum of £—. And we further command you, that of the said goods and chattels of the said *C. D.* in your bailiwick you further cause to be made the said sum of £— (*a*), together with the interest on the said three several sums of £—, and £—, and £—, at the rate of £4 *per centum per annum*, from the said — day of —, in the year of our Lord — (*b*), and that you have that money, with such interest as aforesaid, before us at *Westminster* immediately after the execution hereof, to be rendered to the said *A. B.* for the monies by the said rule first above mentioned ordered to be paid by the said *C. D.* to the said *A. B.* and for costs and interest as aforesaid, and that you do all such things as by the statute passed in the second year of our reign you are authorised and required to do in this behalf. And in what manner you shall have executed this our writ make appear to us at *Westminster*, immediately after the execution thereof, and have there then this writ.

Witness, *Thomas Lord Denman*, at *Westminster*, on the — day of —, in the year of our Lord —.

DENMAN.	E. H. ALDERSON.
N. C. TINDAL.	J. PATTERSON.
ABINGER.	J. GURNY.
J. LITTLEDALE.	J. WILLIAMS.
J. VAUGHAN.	J. T. COLERIDGE.
J. PARKER.	T. COLTMAN.
J. B. BOSANQUET.	T. ERSKINE.

(*a*) The costs of removing the rule from the inferior court into the Court of Q. B.

(*b*) The day on which the costs of removing the rule from the inferior court into the Court of Q. B. were taxed.

END OF HILARY VACATION.

AN
INDEX
TO
THE PRINCIPAL MATTERS.

ABUSE.

When it must be replied, 861. *Trover*, I.

ACCOUNT.

Remittance to, 607. *Agent*, III. 2.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

Admission.

ACQUIESCENCE.

I. In order obtained in amicable suit, 255. *Statute*, XXIII.

II. In ignorance of the facts, 699. *Arbitration*, III.

ACT, LOCAL.

Statute, XXXVIII. to XLIII.

ACTION.

I. Where maintainable.

1. Not where plaintiff has no interest which the law can recognise, 857. *Landlord and Tenant*, I. 7.

2. For act done under order of House of Commons, 1. *Parliament*, I.

3. When not maintainable against sheriff for false return by bailiff, 288. *Sheriff*, III.

4. For malicious injury, 268. *Arrest*, II.

5. When it arises on contract to indemnify, 633. *Indemnity*, I.

6. On by-law, 556. *Corporation*, III.

II. Time of bringing.

Against stakeholder, when premature, 536. *Stakeholder*, I.

III. Form.

Assumpsit or covenant, 532. *Assumpsit*, I.

IV. Notice of, 654. *Game*.

ACTIONEM NON.

When not required, 861. *Trover*, I.

ADMISSIBILITY.

Evidence.

ADMISSION.

I. In pleading. *Pleading*, I to III.

II. On the pleadings. *Evidence*, IX.

III. In evidence. *Evidence*, X.

IV. Of attorneys, 728. *Attorney*, I. 1.

ADVERSE POSSESSION.

p. 662. *Ejectment*, II.

AGE.

AGE.

Of devisee, 582. *Devise*, IV.

AGENT.

I. Generally.

Master of ship for whom agent, 314.
Shipping, I. 1.

II. Rights of agent.

After change of circumstances, 607.
Post, III. 2.

III. Liability to principal.

1. When a disqualifying interest, 487.
Evidence, II. 3.

2. After remittance to account as desired in the usual course.

Plaintiff, by letter, desired his agent to receive a sum of money for him, and, after making certain payments, transmit the surplus through the house of defendants, a mercantile firm in *London*, to be placed to the plaintiff's credit at *Calcutta*. The agent paid in the surplus, 419*l.*, at defendants' house, shewing them plaintiff's letter. Defendants received the sum on plaintiff's account, entered it in their books to the account of C. and Co., their correspondents at *Calcutta*, and wrote to C. and Co., informing them that they had so done, and desiring that C. and Co. would account with plaintiff, at the rate of so much per rupee. Defendants charged one per cent. commission. Before the letter from defendants arrived at *Calcutta*, C. and Co. stopped payment. Defendants, after placing the 419*l.* to account, paid bills drawn on them by C. and Co., to a much larger amount; but it did not appear whether or not the general balance between the two houses was altered by such payments:

On *assumpsit* brought against the defendants for money had and received, and plea, as to the 419*l.*, that defendants had remitted it as desired,

Held, that defendants were not liable, having done all that plaintiff required of them, and they contracted to do, for the purpose of remitting the 419*l.*; and having bound themselves to credit C. and Co. in that amount, if that house did not reject the transaction. *McCarthy v. Colvin*, 607.

APPEAL, I.

IV. Liability of agent to third persons.

1. When a disqualifying interest, 314.
Shipping, I. 1.

2. Instructing an attorney to commence proceedings, 314. *Shipping*, I. 1.

3. After an appropriation or assignment of funds in his hands, 375.
Bankrupt, I. 1.

V. Bankruptcy of principal.

What authorities, &c. not revoked, 375. *Bankrupt*, I. 1.

AGREEMENT.

I. By single partner in name of firm, when evidence of a several contract, 314. *Shipping*, I. 1.

II. Stamp required when it operates as two agreements, 314. *Shipping*, I. 1.

III. Construction as to forfeiture, 508.
Vendor, I. 1.

IV. See also *Contract*.

ALIEN.

Lease to alien artificer, 857. *Landlord and Tenant*, I. 7.

ALNWICK.

Charters, 444. *Poor*, VI. 3.

ALTERATION.

Of document, 926. *Interlineation*, I.

AMENDMENT.

Of return to *habeas corpus*, 731. 804.
Habeas corpus, I.

AMICABLE SUIT.

Order acquiesced in, 255. *Statute*, XXIII.

AMOUNT.

Traverse of, 499. *Plea*, IV. 2.

APPEAL.

I. Remedy by.

How far it restricts the remedy by certiorari, 540. *Certiorari*, II. 1.

II. Against

APPEAL, II.—IV.

II. Against county rate, 540. *Certiorari*, II. 1.

III. Against borough rate, 871. *Statute*, XXXIV. 2.

IV. Against poor rate. *Poor*, VII.

APPLICATION.

Of payments, generally, 245. 248. *Payment*, V. 2, 3.

II. Of payments under old bastardy laws, 682. *Poor*, XVI. 2.

APPOINTMENT.

I. Power of: attestation, 936. *Power*, I.

II. Of umpire, 699. *Arbitration*, III.

III. Of parish officers, 901. 911. *Poor*, I. 1, 2.

APPRENTICE.

I. Settlement by apprenticeship. *Poor*, IX.

II. Illegal employment, 510. *Poor*, IX.

APPROPRIATION.

Of funds in hands of consignee, 375. *Bankrupt*, I. 1.

ARBITRATION.

I. Submission.

Mandamus to refer Savings' Bank disputes, refused when leading to no result, 729. *Savings' Bank*, I.

II. Effect of submission.

1. Of cause and suit in equity praying an injunction, 576. *Post*, IX. 1.

2. Costs to abide the event of the award, 576. *Post*, IX. 1.

3. By proceeding after irregular appointment of umpire, 699. *Post*, III.

III. Umpire.

Appointment by lot.

Where arbitrators are empowered to choose an umpire, and having differed in their nominations, make the appointment by lot, and then inform

Vol. IX.

ARBITRATION, III.—IX. 1. 1001

the litigating parties "that they have mutually chosen" *A. B.* to be umpire, and the parties thereupon assent to the choice, neither party is bound by such acquiescence, if given in ignorance of the real state of facts.

An award was set aside on motion, it appearing by the affidavits that a communication was made as above, and the choice assented to; but it not appearing whether the parties assenting (and one of whom now objected), knew, at the time of such assent, how the appointment had taken place. *In re Greenwood and Titterton*, 699.

IV. Powers of arbitrator.

Indirect, 576. *Post*, IX. 1.

V. Publication and notice.

To stakeholder, when necessary, 536. *Stakeholder*, I.

VI. Certainty, 522. *Post*, X.

VII. Particularity, 522. *Post*, X.

VIII. Finality, 522. *Post*, X.

IX. Costs.

1. Where they are to abide the event of the award.

A cause and all matters in difference, including an equity suit, were referred to arbitration, with power to the arbitrator to direct such verdict as he thought proper, and to determine what should be done by either party touching the matters in dispute. The costs of the cause and equity suit were to abide the event of the award; the costs of the reference and award to be in the arbitrator's discretion. The bill in equity, filed by the defendants in the action against the plaintiffs, prayed, among other things, an injunction against further proceeding in the action.

The arbitrator directed that a verdict should be entered for the plaintiffs at law, with damages, on some issues in the cause, and for the defendants on the others: but he ordered that no execution should be taken out by the plaintiffs; and that, after entering of the verdict as above, and any judgment thereon, all proceedings on the judgment by either party to the action should be stayed. But for such direction the verdict would have entitled the plaintiffs to the general costs. He

3 X

also

also directed that the suit in equity should cease.

Held no excess of the arbitrator's authority. *Reeves v. McGregor*, 576.

2. Where less than 20*l.* recovered, 702. *Costs*, IV.

X. Set-off.

A canal company agreed with *B.* for the use of an engine constructed by him, during a term of years, they paying a stipulated annual sum. In the course of the term, disputes arising, the parties put an end to the agreement, and referred all matters in difference between them to arbitration. On the reference, *B.* claimed, among other things, compensation for future loss, in respect of the part of the term unexpired. The company stated a set-off. The arbitrators, by their award, reciting the submission to arbitration, and that they had heard and considered all the evidence of each party, and investigated all the accounts and vouchers touching the matters in difference, adjudicated (not saying that they did so of and concerning the matters referred) that there was due from the company to *B.* 51*5l.*, which they directed the company to pay him.

On motion to set aside the award, on the grounds, 1. That it was not final, inasmuch as no decision appeared touching the future damage, 2. That it was uncertain, 3. That it left a doubt whether or not the set-off had been considered,

Held, that the award was sufficient. *In re Brown and the Croydon Canal Company*, 522.

XI. Effect of award.

1. Of order obtained in amicable suit, 255. *Statute*, XXIII.
2. Of general award on specific differences, 522. *Antè*, X.

ARREST.

- I. By wrong name, 840. *Misnomer*, I.
- II. Remedy for malicious arrest.

An action on the case lies for *maliciously*, and without reasonable or probable cause, arresting plaintiff, and detaining him until discharged by a Judge's order, pending a former suit by defendant for the same cause of action, in which plaintiff had been ar-

ASSUMPSIT, I.

rested and discharged out of custody by reason of defendant's delay in declaring.

To such action it is no defence that the second suit is still pending; and, *semble*, the action lies, although the party arresting had a good cause of action. *Quære*, whether it lies where the defendant obtained a Judge's order for the second arrest? *Heywood v. Collinge*, 268.

III. Second, 268. *Antè*, II.

IV. Pleading, 268. *Antè*, II.

ARTIFICER.

Alien, 857. *Landlord and Tenant*, I. 7.

ASSENT.

Under mistake of fact, 699. *Arbitration*, III.

ASSIGNMENT.

- I. Under bankruptcy. *Bankrupt*, III. to V.
- II. Of chose in action.
 1. Effect of bankruptcy of assignor, 292. *Bond*, I. 1.
 2. Of funds in hands of consignee, 575. *Bankrupt*, I. 1.
 3. Of lease, 532. *Assumpsit*, I.
 4. Of stipend, &c., by bishop, 468. *Justice*, I.

ASSISTANT OVERSEER.

p. 911. *Poor*, I. 2.

ASSUMPSIT.

- I. Where it lies.

Not as well as covenant.

Where a lessee assigns and grants over his lease by deed, not containing a covenant for quiet enjoyment, or for indemnity against demands of rent due to the superior landlord before assignment, the assignee, if distrained upon for such rent, may bring an action of covenant against the assignor, founded on the word "grant" in the deed.

And consequently, if, upon such distress, he has paid the rent to release his own goods, he cannot sue the assignor

signor in assumpsit for the amount paid.

Although the assignor, after such distress and payment, has promised the plaintiff to repay him the amount : at least if there be not a new consideration for such promise ; as forbearance. *Baber v. Harris*, 532.

II. Money had and received.

1. By way of deposit, 508. *Vendor*, I. 1.
2. For purpose of remitting, 607. *Agent*, III. 2.

III. Money paid.

By assignee to release his goods from distress by lessor, 532. *Antè*, I.

IV. Pleading.

1. Plea of payment of all sums mentioned in a declaration admitting part payment, and new assignment thereon, 248. *Payment*, V. 3.
2. New promise, 854. *Bills*, VII. 1.
3. Interlineation, 926. *Interlineation*, I.

ATTACHMENT.

For false return to habeas corpus, 731. *Habeas corpus*, I.

ATTAINDER.

pp. 731. 784. *Habeas corpus*, I.

ATTESTATION.

Of exercise of power, 936. *Power*, I.

ATTORNEY.

I. Examination.

1. Notice.

A candidate for admission to practise as an attorney having failed, on examination, to satisfy the Examiners, the Court, under particular circumstances, made an order that, if, on re-examination in the next term, he should obtain his certificate, he might be admitted without having given a fresh term's notice under *Reg. Gen. Hil. 6 W. 4. s. 4. In re Examiners of Attornies*, 728.

2. Failure, 728. *Antè*, I.

II. Retainer.

By agent, 314. *Shipping*, I. 1.

III. Delivery of bill as against third parties.

When it is not a cause of action under a contract to indemnify, 633. *Indemnity*, I.

IV. Personal liability.

When not ordered to pay costs of criminal information, 704. *Trespass*, IV. 1.

ATTORNMENT.

I. By wharfinger to vendee, 895. *Vendor*, II. 5.

II. By tenant, 342. *Mortgage*, II. 1.

AUGMENTATION.

Of living by Queen Anne's bounty, 566. *Curate*, III.

AUTHENTICATION.

By attestation, 936. *Power*, I.

AUTHORITY.

I. To receive colonial convicts, 731. 786. *Habeas corpus*, I.

II. Of gamekeeper, 664. *Game*.

III. Revocation by bankruptcy, 375. *Bankrupt*, I. 1.

AVERAGE LOSS.

Increase of freight, when, 314. 337. *Shipping*, I. 1.

AVOWRY.

By mortgagee, 342. *Mortgage*, II. 1.

AWARD.

I. Of writ of sequestration, 468. *Justice*, I.

II. Under arbitration. *Arbitration*.

BAILIFF.

Liability of sheriff for, 288. *Sheriff*, III.

BALANCE.

Pleading to the, 245. 248. *Payment*, V. 2, 3.

BANKER.

p. 371. *Bankrupt*, I. 1.

BANKRUPT.

I. Effect of bankruptcy.

1. As a revocation.

H., a manufacturer, had been accustomed to consign goods by the agency of *O.* and *Co.*, commission merchants, to houses in *America*, for sale on *H.*'s account. *O.* and *Co.* made advances to *H.* on the consignments, received the proceeds as his agents, and accounted to him, repaying themselves their commission, advances, and other charges. In 1831, *H.* being indebted to *O.* and *Co.* for such advances and charges, and likewise owing 5000*l.* to his own bankers, wrote to *O.* and *Co.*, authorising them, after paying themselves their balance out of the net proceeds of *H.*'s shipments down to that date, to pay *R.* and *Co.*, the bankers, half the remainder of such proceeds, so that the payment should not exceed 5000*l.* *O.* and *Co.* thereupon wrote to *R.* and *Co.*, stating that they, agreeably to *H.*'s authority, engaged to pay *R.* and *Co.* (after liquidating their own balance) a proportion of the remaining proceeds, &c. (as in *H.*'s letter), in consideration of *R.* and *Co.* guaranteeing *O.* and *Co.* from claims by any other party in consequence of such payment. *R.* and *Co.* then wrote to *O.* and *Co.* that, understanding from *H.* that *O.* and *Co.* had agreed to pay any surplus balance, &c. (as in *H.*'s letter), they, *R.* and *Co.*, agreed to guarantee *O.* and *Co.* against such other claims. A few days before this correspondence, *H.* had transmitted to *O.* and *Co.* a letter of authority resembling that afterwards sent, and had seen a draft of a letter from them to *R.* and *Co.*, like that afterwards sent by *O.* and *Co.* to *R.* and *Co.*, claiming a guarantee as above: but this first authority was revoked, and never acted

upon. In 1833 *H.* became bankrupt. The assignees gave *O.* and *Co.* notice not to make any payments out of *H.*'s effects, except to them. Afterwards *O.* and *Co.* received proceeds of sales from the houses abroad, and paid them over to *R.* and *Co.* according to the authority given by *H.* The assignees sued *O.* and *Co.* for the amount as money had and received to their use: Held,

1. That the letter of *H.*, acted upon by *O.* and *Co.*, did not need a bill stamp under stat. 55 G. 3. c. 184., *sched. part* 1. tit. *Inland Bill*, since it neither required payment to bearer or order, nor was delivered to the payee or any person on his behalf. For

The schedule means a delivery either personally to the payee, or to his agent or representative, and not to the person on whom the order is made.

2. That, if the letter had been so delivered, the sum payable was sufficiently specified or ascertainable to bring it within the schedule as an order for payment of money out of a particular fund which may or may not be available, &c.

3. That the transaction between *H.*, *O.* and *Co.*, and *R.* and *Co.*, was either a valid appropriation, or equitable assignment, of funds to the amount of 5000*l.* in favour of *R.* and *Co.*, and was not revoked by *H.*'s bankruptcy. *Hutchinson v. Heyworth*, 375.

2. Effect of bankruptcy of obligee after assignment of bond by way of further security, 292. *Bond*, I. 1.

II. Relation to act of bankruptcy.

1. Pleading with reference to, 303. *Pleading*, XXIV. 1.

2. *Bona fide* purchase two months before fiat, 303. *Pleading*, XXIV. 1.

III. Assignees, generally.

Notice of revocation by, 375. *Antd.*, I. 1.

IV. Assignees, actions &c. by.

Effect in evidence of receipt fraudulently signed by bankrupt, 641. *Receipt*.

V. What passes under the assignment.

Not bond previously assigned to a creditor, 292. *Bond*, I. 1.

VI. Certificate.

BANKRUPT, VI., VII. 1, 2.

Plea of puis darrein continuance, 505.
Costs, III.

VII. Pleading.

1. Under 6 G. 4. c. 16. s. 81., 303.
Pleading, XXIV. 1.
2. Plea of bankruptcy of plaintiff obligee: replication, previous assignment to a creditor, for whose benefit &c., 292. *Bond*, I. 1.

BARON AND FEME.

I. Separation.

1. By imprisonment, 622. *Poor*, VIII.
2. By order of removal, 622. *Poor*, VIII.

II. Action against baron for feme's debt. Effect of feme's discharge under Insolvent Act, 868. *Insolvent*, II.

BASTARD.

Filiation, 619. *Poor*, XVI. 1.

BENEFICE.

- I. Perpetual curacy, when, 556. *Curate*, III.
- II. As a qualification for a justice, 468.
Justice, I.
- III. Sequestration, 468. *Justice*, I.

BILL.

- I. Attorney's. *Attorney*, III.
- II. Of lading. *Shipping*, I.

BILLS OF EXCHANGE AND PROMISSORY NOTES.

I. What is a bill or note.

1. Order for payment of money, when, 375. *Bankrupt*, I. 1.
2. Note on demand, 275. *Post*, III.
3. Joint and several, 854. *Post*, VII. 1.

II. Stamp, 375. *Bankrupt*, I. 1.

III. Reissuing.

A note payable to *A.* or order on demand cannot be reissued after payment by the maker.

In an action by the holder against the payee of such a note for 200*l.*, the

BILLS OF EXCHANGE. 1005

plea averred that the defendant indorsed it at the request and for the accommodation of the maker, for the sole purpose of depositing it with *B.* as security for a debt of 200*l.* due from the maker to *B.*; that the maker afterwards paid the debt to *B.*, who thereupon redelivered the note to the maker: Held, on general demurrer, that the above statement was in effect an averment that the note had been paid by the maker: and therefore that the plea disclosed a sufficient defence.

Quære, whether the indorsee of an overdue note, payable on demand, be affected by its previous equities, unless he had notice that it was overdue? *Bartrum v. Caddy*, 275.

IV. Overdue, 275. *Antè*, III.

V. Indorsee.

Receiving a note when overdue, 275.
Antè, III.

VI. Notice.

Of note being overdue, 275. *Antè*, III.

VII. Release to one of several parties liable.

1. To one of several joint-makers.

Assumpsit by indorsees against the maker of a promissory note. Plea, that the promise was a joint and several one by defendant and *A.*, to whom one of the plaintiffs executed a release under seal. Replication, that the release was executed at the request of defendant, who afterwards, and while the note was unpaid, in consideration of such release, ratified his promise, and promised to remain liable to plaintiffs for the amount of the note. Held bad, because it set up a parol exception to a release under seal.

To the same plea, pleaded to the common money counts, a replication traversing both the joint and several promise, and also the release, was admitted to be bad on special demurrer. *Brooks v. Stuart*, 854.

2. Reservation of liability as to one, 854. *Antè*, I.

VIII. Pleading.

Payment by party primarily liable, 275.
Antè, III.

BISHOP.

- I. His consent when necessary to a lease, 556. *Curate*, III.
- II. Assignment of stipend, &c. on sequestration of benefice, 468. *Justice*, I.

BOARD.

- I. For superintendence of highways, 820. *Highway*, I.
- II. Of guardians, *Poor*, I.

BONA FIDES.

- I. Bonâ fide supposition of right, 654. *Game*, 268. *Arrest*, II.
- II. Bonâ fide claim of right, 704. *Trespass*, IV. 1.

BOND.

- I. Assignment of.
 1. Effect of bankruptcy of obliges.
Debt on bond. Plea: bankruptcy of plaintiff, fiat, &c., concluding that, "by reason of the premises, the assignees became entitled to the debt and cause of action:" Held, that the latter allegation was not traversable.
The replication stated that plaintiff had, by indenture before his bankruptcy, assigned the bond to G. and E. as a security for a larger debt, and that the action was prosecuted for their benefit: Held, that no profert of the indenture was necessary.
A money bond, assigned by the obligee to creditors to secure a debt of larger amount, does not pass to assignees under a fiat against him, although the assignment is expressed to be "for further security," and contains a proviso to defeat it on payment of the debt. *Dangerfield v. Thomas*, 292.
 2. By way of mortgage, 292. *Ante*, 1.
- II. Pleading, 292. *Ante*, I. 1.

BOROUGH.

Municipal Corporation.

BOROUGH-RATE.

Appeal against, 871. *Statute XXXIV.* 2.

BOUNTY.

Queen Anne's, 556. *Curate*, III.

BREACH.

- I. By both parties, effect as to deposit, 508. *Vendor*, I. 1.
- II. Of contract to indemnify, 653. *Indemnity*, I.

BRIDGE.

Rateability of, 898. *Poor*, VI. 2.

BURGESS ROLL.

Municipal Corporation, II.

BY-LAW.

Corporation, III.

CANADA.

Upper, 731. *Habeas Corpus*, I.

CASE.

For second arrest, 268. *Arrest*, II.

CERTAINTY.

- I. To which agreement a stamp is applicable, 314. 331. *Shipping*, I. 1.
- II. Of sum appropriated or assigned, 325. *Bankrupt*, I. 1.
- III. In awards. *Arbitration*, VI.

CERTIFICATE.

- I. For costs where less than 20*l.* recovered, 702. *Costs*, IV.
- II. Of Bankrupt, 505. *Costs*, III.

CERTIORARI.

- I. To bring up orders of poor-law commissioners, 901. 911. *Poor*, I.
- II. To bring up a rate.
 1. When not allowed.

On appeal at quarter sessions against a county rate, the sessions, in 1837, dismissed the appeal, subject to the opinion

opinion of this Court on a case. The case directed that, if this Court should think the appellants entitled to relief on the objection taken, the rate should be amended in a particular which was specified. A certiorari was obtained, to remove into this Court the order of sessions, with all things touching the same. The sessions sent up the order and special case, but not the rate. This Court quashed the order. At the ensuing sessions, December 1838, a motion was made to quash the rate; but the justices refused. No continuances had been entered on the appeal.

On motion for a mandamus to the justices to enter continuances to their next sessions, and at those sessions quash the rate,

Writ refused: for, per Lord Denman C. J., and *Littledale J.*, if the rate were quashed otherwise than on certiorari, parties who had acted in collecting it would lose the protection given to such persons by stat. 12 G. 2. c. 29. s. 18., in the case of a rate being quashed.

And, per *Littledale* and *Coleridge J.*s., the quashing of the rate being a judicial act (under a local statute, 3 G. 4. c. cvii.), this Court could not order them by mandamus to perform it.

And, per *Coleridge J.*, *Seem* that a mandamus could not go, because the sessions, when called upon to quash the rate, had not power to do so.

By stat. 3 G. 4. c. cvii. (local and personal, public,) if a county rate for *Middlesex* be made before it appears to the justices that three fourths of the last preceding rate are expended, the order for the rate is to contain a proviso suspending the collection till the three fourths are expended. If a rate be otherwise made, appeal is given to the quarter sessions.

An order for a rate recited that the three fourths were expended, and did not contain the proviso. A party, not having appealed, applied for a certiorari to bring up the rate, on affidavits suggesting that the three fourths had not been expended. Certiorari refused. *Regina v. Middlesex Justices*, 540.

2. What must be brought up for the purpose of quashing a rate, 540. *Ante*, 1.

3. Refused where rate good on the face of it, 540. *Ante*, 1.

III. Recognizance, when not necessary.

The enactment 5 G. 2. c. 19. s. 2. that orders of justices shall not be removed by certiorari unless recognisance be given by the party removing, does not apply to writs of certiorari sued out by a prosecutor.

And therefore, where a conviction had been quashed by order of sessions and the informer obtained a certiorari to remove such order, the Court refused to quash the writ on the ground that no recognisances had been given. *Regina v. Spencer*, 485.

CHANCERY.

Amicable suit, 255. *Statute*, XXIII.

CHARITY.

I. Distinction between trusts for the poor of the parish generally and trusts partially in aid of the parish funds, 255. *Statute*, XXIII.

II. Vesting of legal estate in parish officers, 255. *Statute*, XXIII.

CHEQUE.

When considered as money, 536. *Stakeholder*, I.

CHILD.

Bastard. *Poor*, XVI.

CHOICE.

Of umpire, 699. *Arbitration*, III.

CHURCH.

Curate.

CLASS.

Devise to, 582. *Devise*, IV.

CLERK.

Master and Servant.

3 X 4

COL.

COLLECTOR.

COLLECTOR.

Of rates, 901. 911. *Poor*, I.

COLONIES.

I. Upper Canada, 731. *Habeas corpus*, I.

II. Colonial law, 731. *Habeas corpus*, I.

III. Judicial notice of their legal proceedings, 731. 783. *Habeas corpus*, I.

COLOUR.

Pleading, XII.

COMMENCEMENT.

Of plea, 499. *Plea*, IV. 2.

COMMISSIONERS.

Poor-Law, 901. 911. *Poor*, I.

COMMITMENT.

Mandamus to commit putative father of bastard, 682. *Poor*, XVI. 2.

COMMON.

Right of.

I. What interest amounts only to, 444. *Poor*, VI. 3.

II. Not rateable, 444. *Poor*, VI. 3.

COMMONS

House of, 1. *Parliament*, I.

COMMUTATION.

Of punishment, 731. 784. *Habeas corpus*, I.

COMPANY.

Public, 463. *Compensation*.

COMPENSATION.

For what interests.

P. held premises under an agreement for one year, and afterwards to

CONSENT

quit on three months' notice at any quarter-day. He was not to underlet or give up possession to another, or make any alteration, without consent of his landlord; and was to leave for his landlord's benefit all improvements or additions made during his occupation. He made certain improvements, and was afterwards ejected upon due notice to quit. Held that he was not entitled to compensation for such improvements under sect. 19 of the *Hungerford Market Act*, 11 G. 4. c. lxx., although the notice to quit was given by reason of the passing of that act. *In re Palmer v. Hungerford Market Company*, 463.

COMPETENCY.

Of witness. *Evidence*, II.

COMPUTATION.

Of time, 879. *Devise*, III. 1.

CONCLUSION.

I. Of law, traverse of, 292. *Bond*, I. 1.

II. 1. Of pleading, 303. *Pleading*, XXIV. 1.

2. Of plea as to part, 861. *Trover*, I.

3. Et sic, 809. *Landlord and Tenant*, XVII. 1.

4. Wrong, how available, 840. *Minor*, I.

CONDITION.

Precedent.

To the vesting of an estate, 582. *Devise*, IV.

CONFESSION.

In pleading, 457. *Plea*, VII.

CONFESSION AND AVOIDANCE.

Pleading, I.

CONSENT.

I. To own imprisonment, 731. 783. *Habeas corpus*, I.

II. Necessary to lease by perpetual curate, 556. *Curate*, III.

III. Rule, 662. *Ejectment*, II.

CON-

CONSIDERATION.

- I. When not implied, 693. *Master and Servant*, I. 1.
- II. For promise, where there is a remedy by covenant, 532. *Assumpsit*, I.
- III. As between bankers and customer, 375. *Bankrupt*, I. 1.

CONSIGNEE.

Appropriation or assignment of funds in hands of, 375. *Bankrupt*, I. 1.

CONSPIRACY.

Indictment.

1. Must shew that the purpose was necessarily criminal.

A count for conspiring to deceive and defraud divers of her Majesty's subjects, who should bargain with defendants for the sale of goods, of great quantities of such goods, without making payment, remuneration or satisfaction for the same, with intent to obtain profit and emolument to defendants (not stating the means) is bad, as not shewing that the conspiracy was for a purpose necessarily criminal.

But it is no objection that the count does not name the parties who were to have been defrauded.

A count charging that defendants, being indebted to divers persons, conspired to defraud them of the payment of such debts, and in pursuance of such conspiracy executed a false and fraudulent deed of bargain and sale and assignment of certain goods from two of themselves to a third, with intent thereby to obtain emolument to themselves, is bad for omitting to shew in what respect the deed was false and fraudulent. *Regina v. Peck*, 686.

2. Must shew in what respect a deed was fraudulent, 686. *Anté*, 1.
3. Need not shew the names of the parties to be defrauded, 686. *Anté*, 1.

CONSTRUCTION.

I. Of statutes.

1. Perhaps contrary to intention, 426. *Error*, I. 871. *Statute*, XXXIV. 2.
2. Liberal, 556. *Curate*, III.

3. Enlarged, 836. *Poor*, XII.

4. Not restrained, 455. *Poor*, VI. 1.

5. Of compensation clauses, 463. *Compensation*.

6. Of penal statutes, 556. *Curate*, III.

7. Nomen collectivum, 836. *Poor*, XII.

8. General words controlled by special, 911. *Poor*, I. 2.

9. Implied exceptions, 731. 783. *Habeas corpus*, I.

II. Of pleadings.

1. Of declaration in connection with particulars of demand, 245. 248. *Payment*, V. 2, 3.

2. Of plea of payment of all the monies mentioned in a declaration, admitting part payment, 248. *Payment*, V. 3.

3. Of new assignment admitting the payment pleaded, 248. *Payment*, V. 3.

4. Of declaration for a second arrest, "maliciously and without any reasonable or probable cause," 268. *Arrest*, II.

5. Of averment of notice to surety that principal is in arrear, 278. *Guarantee*, II.

6. Is according to the meaning of words at time of pleading, 406. *Custom*, IV. 1.

III. Of documents.

1. When not influenced by collateral circumstances, 644. *Landlord and Tenant*, I. 5.

2. Of agreement to demise, 658. *Landlord and Tenant*, II.

3. Of agreement to purchase with clauses of forfeiture, 508. *Vendor*, I. 1.

4. Of an award not said to be de et super præmissis, 522. *Arbitration*, X.

5. Of a will, 582. 727. *Devise*.

IV. Of particular words and phrases.

1. "Agree to let," 644. *Landlord and Tenant*, I. 5.

2. "Any judgment," 426. *Error*, I.

3. "Any person," 871. *Statute*, XXXIV. 2.

4. "At the age," 582. *Devise*, IV.

5. "Attest," 936. *Power*, I.

6. "De-

6. "Delivered to the payee or some person in his behalf;" 375. *Bankrupt*, I. 1.
7. Lands "belonging" to the parish, 255. *Statute*, XXIII.
8. "On such conditions as may seem fit," 731. 783. *Habeas corpus*, I.
9. "By way of deposit," 508. *Vendor*, I. 1.
10. "Estate," 719. *Devise*, I. 1.
11. "Event of the award," 576. *Arbitration*, IX. 1.
12. "Examination," 836. *Poor*, XII.
13. Term of years "from" a given day, 879. *Devise*, III. 1.
14. "I hereby engage, &c.," signed in name of firm, 314. *Shipping*, I. 1.
15. "Incumbrances," 468. *Justice*, I.
16. "Grant," 532. *Assumpsit*, I.
17. "Occupy," 626. *Poor*, X. 1. 670. *Statute*, XXXIV. 1.
18. "Officers," ejusdem generis, 911. *Poor*, I. 2.
19. "Profits," 435. *Poor*, VI. 1.
20. "Proof" that a document is "sealed with the seal of the Court," 554. *Evidence*, VIII. 1.
21. "For the time being," 356. *Corporation*, III.
22. "Victualler," 406. *Custom*, IV. 1.
23. "From year to year," 658. *Landlord and Tenant*, II.
24. "Witness," in an attestation, 936. *Power*, I.

CONTEMPT.

- I. False return, 731. 804. *Habeas corpus*, I.
- II. By negligence, 731, 804. *Habeas corpus*, I.
- III. Commitment for, 1. 126. 169. 196. *Parliament*.

CONTRACT.

- I. Must be mutual, 693. *Master and Servant*, I. 1.
- II. Whether vitiated by interlineation, 926. *Interlineation*, I.
- III. See also *Agreement*.

CONVERSION.

- I. What is, 861. *Trover*, I.

- II. What plea denies or confesses, 861. *Trover*, I.

- III. Of cheque into money, 536. *Stakeholder*, I.

CONVICT.

- Colonial, 731. *Habeas corpus*, I.

CONVICTION.

- Under Malicious Trespass Act, 704. *Trespass*, IV. 1.

COPYHOLD.

- I. Customs.

1. To demise with licence, 339. *Post*, II.

2. To dig brick earth, 339. n.

- II. Leases.

Licence to demise.

A mandamus will not go to compel the lord of a manor to grant a licence to a copyholder to demise his copyhold land on an alleged custom that the tenant may demise for three years without licence, and that, for licence to demise during a longer term, the lord shall have a sum certain for every year of such term. *Regina v. Hale*, 339.

- III. Mandamus.

- To grant licence, 339. *Ante*, II.

CORPORATION.

- I. Sole.

- Perpetual curate, 556. *Curate*, III.

- II. Property.

1. Rateability. *Poor*, VI.

2. Freeman's interest in common, 444. *Poor*, VI. 3.

- III. By-law.

Imposing penalties.

A company was incorporated, with power to the master, two wardens, and assistants (all chosen from the body of the company), to make by-laws for the government of the company, and to provide penalties, by fine, for breach of such by-laws; the company to have the fines for their use. A by-law was made, that every one of the livery of the

the company who should be chosen steward and refuse to take the office, should forfeit 1*l.* to the master and wardens "for the time being, or to one of them, for the use, relief, and maintenance" of the company.

Defendant was chosen steward, and refused to take office. At the time of his election and refusal, G. was master, and C. and L. were wardens.

G., C., and L. brought debt against defendant upon the by-law, not naming themselves, in the commencement of the declaration, as present or late officers, nor stating that they sued for the use of the company, but alleging the above facts, and that defendant had forfeited and become liable to pay 1*l.* to the master and wardens for the time being, or one of them, to the use, &c., of the company, whereby an action had accrued to plaintiffs, G. so being master, and C. and L. so being wardens, to demand &c. (not adding to the use, &c., of the company). Breach, that defendant had not rendered to the plaintiffs or the company.

Plea, that, at the commencement of the suit, G. was not master, nor C. warden. On demurrer,

Held, that the action did not lie, the right to sue not remaining in the officers after they had quitted office.

Quære, whether the action was maintainable by any one? *Graves v. Colby*, 356.

IV. Penalties.

1. How recoverable, 356. *Antè*, III.

2. How reserved, 356. *Antè*, III.

V. Officers.

For the time being, 356. *Antè*, III.

VI. Municipal. *Municipal Corporation*.

CORRESPONDENT.

Insolvency of, 607. *Agent*, III. 2.

CORROBORATION.

Of mother, in orders of filiation, 619. *Poor*, XVI. 1.

COSTS.

I. Generally.

1. Liability to, when a disqualifying

interest, 314. *Shipping*, I. 1. 714. *Poor*, XIV.

2. Not ordered against one not a party to the rule, 704. *Trespass*, IV. 1.

3. Contract to indemnify against, 653. *Indemnity*, I.

II. Liability of particular persons.

Agent retaining attorney, 314. *Shipping*, I. 1.

III. Of discontinuance.

Where a defendant pleads *puis darrein continuance*, the plaintiff may always discontinue without payment of costs.

Therefore, where defendant (after plea) pleaded his bankruptcy and certificate *puis darrein continuance*, and plaintiff thereupon took out a summons for leave to discontinue without costs, it was held that he was entitled so to do, and that defendant could not be allowed to sign judgment of *non pros* for want of a replication. Stat. 6 G. 4. c. 16. s. 59. is not applicable where a certificate in bankruptcy is pleaded *puis darrein continuance*. *Wollen v. Smith*, 505.

IV. Where less than 20*l.* recovered.

Power of arbitrator or Court.

A certificate for full costs, under *Reg. Gen. Hil. Vac. 4 W. 4., Directions to taxing officers*, where a cause is tried before a judge and less than 20*l.* recovered, must be given by the judge himself; and if, from an unavoidable cause, as the judge's death, it cannot be obtained from him, the Court cannot direct it to be entered on the *postea*. Although the cause was referred at *nisi prius* to an arbitrator, who, on giving his decision, stated that it was fit to be tried by a judge. *Aslley v. Joy*, 702.

V. In particular proceedings.

1. Criminal information. *Criminal Information*.

2. On staying proceedings in quo warranto, 680. *Statute*, XXXV. 1.

COUNSEL.

I. For different parties in same interest, when not heard severally. *Doe dem. Spilsbury v. Burdett*, 939. n.

II. Return signed by, 731. *Habeas corpus*, I.

COUNTY

COUNTY COURT.

Fi. fa. out of, 288. *Sheriff*, III.

COUNTY PALATINE.

Error on judgments in, 426. *Error*, I.

COUNTY RATE.

- I. See p. 540. *Certiorari*, II. 1.
- II. Appeal against, for what grievances, 871. *Statute*, XXXIV. 2.

COURT.

- I. *County Court. Eschequer Chamber. Insolvent. Queen's Bench. Sessions.*
- II. Power to judge of the privileges of other courts, 1. 203. *Parliament*, I.
- III. Common law, superior.
Sittings in vacation, 244.
- IV. Inferior.
Plea of exclusive jurisdiction, 499.
Plea, IV. 2.
- V. 1. Of requests, 499. *Plea*, IV. 2.
2. Imprisonment by, 622. *Poor*, VIII.
- VI. Seal of, 554. *Evidence*, VII. 1.

COVENANT.

When it lies.

On the covenant implied in the word "grant," 532. *Assumpsit*, I.

COVERTURE.

Baron and Feme.

CREDIT.

Remittance to, 807. *Agent*, III. 2.

CREDITOR.

Of feme discharged as an insolvent before her coverture, 868. *Insolvent*, II.

CRIMINAL INFORMATION.

- I. When refused.
 1. Where justices had jurisdiction, 704. *Trespass*, IV. 1.
 2. With costs, 704. *Trespass*, IV. 1.
- II. Costs not given against a person not a party to the rule, though an attorney, 704. *Trespass*, IV. 1.

CRIMINAL LAW.

Conspiracy.

CRIMINAL PRACTICE.

Practice, VI. to IX.

CROWN.

Right to pardon and commute punishment, 751. 786. *Habeas corpus*, I.

CROWN PRACTICE.

Prattice, VI. to IX.

CURATE (PERPETUAL).

- I. His character and office, 556. *Post*, III.
- II. Estate of, 556. *Post*, III.
- III. Leases by.

Land which has been annexed to a perpetual curacy of a parish, by the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty under 2 stat. 1 G. 1. c. 10. ss. 4. 21., cannot be leased by the curate so as to bind the successor, if the patron only consent, and not the ordinary.

Though conveyed to the curate and his successors for ever, and allotted and applied by the Governors to the church, and annexed thereto, to go in succession with the church.

Quære, per Lord Denman C. J. and Williams J., whether such curate is one of the persons whose leases are made valid by stat. 32 H. 8. c. 28. s. 1.

Semble, per Littledale J., he is. Per Coleridge J., contra. Agreed by the Court that, if he be within sect. 1, he is within the restriction of sect. 4. *Doe dem. Richardson v. Thomas*, 556.

CUSTOM.

- I. Of manor, 339. *Copyhold*, II.
- II. Distinction between custom and prescription, 406. *Post*, IV. 1.
- III. How construed, 406. *Post*, IV. 1.
- IV. Whether reasonable.
 1. In respect of generality.

In trespass for breaking and entering plaintiff's close, and erecting stalls, booths, &c., there, defendant justified under a custom that, at fairs holden at certain times of the year, on some part

part of the commons and waste of a manor, to be named by the lord of the manor (the locus in quo being parcel of such commons and waste, and named by the lord), every liege subject exercising the trade of a victualler might enter at the time of the fairs, and, for the more conveniently carrying on his said trade, erect a booth &c., and continue the same for a reasonable time after the fairs, paying 2d. to the lord.

Held, that the custom was reasonable, and the plea a good justification in trespass brought by the owner of the soil.

And that the word "victualler" was to be understood in the sense which it bore at the time of the plea pleaded. *Tyson v. Smith*, 406.

2. In respect of inconvenience, 406. *Ante*, 1.

V. Amounting to common law, 406. *Ante*, IV. 1.

DAMAGE.

I. Time at which it arises, 635. *Indemnity*, I.

II. Future, 522. *Arbitration*, X.

DAMAGE FEASANT.

p. 861. *Trover*, I.

DAY.

Time.

DEATH.

Of judge, effect as to certificates grantable by, 702. *Costs*, IV.

DEBT.

I. For use and occupation on holding over by undertenant, 849. *Landlord and Tenant*, IX.

II. For penalties on by-law, 356. *Corporation*, III.

DEBTOR, INSOLVENT.

Insolvent.

DECLARATION.

I. How construed in connection with particulars of demand, 245. 248. *Payment*, V. 2, 5.

II. Admitting part payment, 248. *Payment*, V. 5.

III. In case for second arrest, 268. *Arrest*, II.

IV. On by-law by officers of company, for penalties, 356. *Corporation*, III.

DEED.

I. Implied covenant, 532. *Assumpsit*, I.

II. Parol exception, 854. *Bills*, VII. 1.

III. Fraudulent, how to be stated, 686. *Conspiracy*.

IV. Profert. *Profert*.

DEFENCE.

I. What must be pleaded, 926. *Interlineation*, I.

II. Under order of House of Commons, 1. *Parliament*, I.

III. To action for malicious arrest, 268. *Arrest*, II.

IV. Second judgment, 288. *Sheriff*, III.

V. As landlord, 662. *Ejectment*, II.

DEFENDANT.

Misnomer of, 840. *Misnomer*, I.

DELIVERY.

Symbolical, when complete, 895. *Vendor*, II. 5.

DEMAND.

I. Not necessary on an illegal possession, 857. *Landlord and Tenant*, I. 7.

II. Particulars. *Particulars of Demand*.

DEMISE.

Lease. *Landlord and Tenant*.

DEMURRER.

I. Admission by, 286. n. *Slander*, II.

II. What set out in the paper books, 499. n.

III. General.

1. Defects available on, 298. *Guarantee*, II. 282. *Libel*, IV. 503. *Pleading*, XXII. 1.

2. Defects

2. Defects not available on, 840. *Misnomer*, I.

IV. Special.

1. Defects available on, 854. *Bills*, VII. 1. 840. *Misnomer*, I.
 2. Defects available only on, 268. *Arrest*, II. 275. *Bills*, III.
 3. Objections not available, 809. *Landlord and Tenant*, XVII. 1. 861. *Trover*, I.

DEPARTURE.

Pleading, X.

DEPOSIT.

- I. Action against stakeholder, when premature, 536. *Stakeholder*, I.
 II. Forfeiture, 508. *Vendor*, I. 1.
 III. In savings' bank. *Savings' Bank*.

DEPUTATION.

Of gamekeeper, 654. *Game*.

DETAINDER.

Where sheriff was not bound to arrest, 840. *Misnomer*, I.

DETERMINATION.

Of estate devised to trustees for certain purposes, 879. *Devise*, III. 1.

DEVISE.

- I. What words pass property.
 1. Leaseholds for lives.

Tenant by demise to him and his heirs for lives devised as follows (after legacies of money and furniture): "I give, bequeath, and devise to my wife *A. all my money, securities for money, goods, chattels, and estate and effects of what nature or kind soever, and wheresoever the same may be at the time of my death.*" And I appoint my said wife executrix. The heir at law was not mentioned in any part of the will.

Held, that by the word "estate" the residue of the term passed to the widow.

Although it was contended that, by a covenant in the lease, such a disposal of the term would cause a forfeiture ;

on which point the Court gave no opinion. *Doe dem. Evans v. Evans*, 719.

2. Effect of the word "estate," 719. *Ante*, 1.

II. What words pass the fee, 879. *Post*, III. 1.

III. To trustees.

1. What does not vest the fee in them.

Devise to *R.* and *W.* in trust that they and their heirs shall set and let the premises, and out of the rents and profits pay a debt of the testator, and certain legacies ; devise, from and after such payment, to *J. B.* in fee.

Held, that the estate of the trustees determined when the debt and legacies were paid.

A house was demised, habendum for twenty-one years, from *March 25th*, 1809, paying rent on certain days, of which *March 25th* was one. The estate of which it formed part had been devised by the landlord to trustees to receive the rents and apply them to certain purposes. After the landlord's death, and before the trusts were completely executed, and during the tenancy, the reversion was sold. For a year after this sale, the purchaser received the rents, but, during the subsequent years, from *Christmas 1817* to *Lady-day 1830*, they were received by the trustees. The trusts were completely executed in 1821. On *March 25th*, 1830, the lessee came to the house (no one being therein), gave the key to the trustees, and departed. The trustees entered ; and the purchaser, who had been present at the above proceeding, and had come to take possession, attempted to enter also, but was put back by the trustees, and they remained on the premises.

Held, that if the lessee's term had expired, the reversioner's entry would have been good, notwithstanding the occupation by the trustees.

But that the term, under the above lease, did not expire till the end of *March 25th*, 1830.

Held, also, that the acts of the lessee on that day did not necessarily import a surrender or a forfeiture. *Ackland v. Lutley*, 879.

2. Effect of power to let, 879. *Ante*, 1,

IV. Remoteness.

Devise

Devise of freehold to testator's daughter *Sarah* for life, and from and after her decease to "such of her children as she now has or may have, if a son or sons, at his or their ages of twenty-three;" if a daughter or daughters, at her or their ages of twenty-one, in fee; and, in case of the death of any son or daughter of *Sarah* under the prescribed age, his or her share to go to the survivors and survivor of them on attaining the prescribed age, in fee; and, if *Sarah* should have but one child who should attain the prescribed age, all the premises to go to such only child, so attaining such age, in fee: the rents and produce of the devised premises to be applied by trustees to the maintenance of the said grandchildren till they should attain the above ages. Devise over, to a son and other daughters of the testator, and their children, if all the children of *Sarah* should die under the prescribed ages; and a further clause directing the rents and profits to be applied for the maintenance of the children of *Sarah*, or of the son's and other daughters' children, "until they become respectively interested as before mentioned." Devise over (after some intermediate clauses), if all the testator's grandchildren then born or thereafter to be born should die under the prescribed ages "without leaving any child or children them or any of them surviving." *Sarah* survived the testator, and died, leaving children.

Held, that, by the will, such children took a vested interest on *Sarah*'s death, and, consequently, that the devise to them was not void for remoteness. *Doe dem. Dolly v. Ward*, 582.

- V. Vested remainder, 582. *Ante*, IV.
- VI. To a class, 582. *Ante*, IV.
- VII. Forfeiture by, 719. *Ante*, I. 1.

DIRECTION.

- Of mandamus, 670. *Statute*, XXXIV. 1.

DISCHARGE.

Under Insolvent Debtors' Act, 868. *Insolvent*, II.

DISCONTINUANCE.

After plea, puis darrein continuance, 505. *Costs*, III.

DISMISSAL.

Of servant, 548. *Master and Servant*, II.

DISTRESS.

I. Damage feasant.

- 1. Amounts to a conversion, 861. *Trover*, I.
- 2. Abuse, when to be replied, 861. *Trover*, I.

II. For rent.

- 1. By mortgagee, 342. *Mortgage*, II. 1.
- 2. By tenant on undertenant holding over, 849. *Landlord and Tenant*, IX.
- 3. By superior landlord on assignee, 532. *Assumpsit*, I.

DOCUMENT.

- I. Interlineation of, 926. *Interlineation*, I.
- II. Documentary evidence. *Evidence*, VI. to VIII.
- III. Not setting out in return, 731. *Habeas corpus*, I.

DOGS.

Of uncertificated persons, 654. *Game*.

DUPLICITY.

p. 854. *Bills*, VII. 1.

EARNEST.

Earnest or part payment, 508. *Vendor*, I. 1.

ECCLESIASTICAL LAW.

Sequestration. *Sequestration*.

ECCLESIASTICAL PERSONS.

Perpetual curate. *Curate*, III.

EJECTMENT.

- I. Effect of consent rule, 662. *Post*, II.
- II. Possessory title when sufficient.

In ejectment for rooms, it appeared that *H.* and the lessor of the plaintiff were placed in a house by the proprietor,

prietor, whose servants they had been, and occupied it in distinct portions, *H.* having the rooms in question to himself. *L.* came to reside with and attend upon *H.*, who died some time after, having devised his interest in the rooms to the lessor of the plaintiff. The original proprietor had died before *H. L.* continued to occupy the rooms, but was forcibly removed from one by the lessor of the plaintiff, and the ejectment brought for recovery of the others. The declaration being served upon *L.*, defendants (who professed to have a claim under the original proprietor) entered into the consent rule to defend as landlords, but, at the trial, gave no evidence of title in themselves.

Held that, *L.* having come in under *H.*, no title in him could be set up against the lessor of the plaintiff; that the lessor of the plaintiff shewed a sufficient title, none being proved by the defendants; and that they could not allege against him that he did not prove twenty years' adverse possession in himself and *H.*

Held, also, that *L.* was not a competent witness for the defendants. *Doe dem. Willis v. Birchmore*, 662.

III. Estoppel, 662. *Ante*, II.

IV. Evidence.

Tenant in possession not competent, 662. *Ante*, II.

ELEGIT.

Forms of writ, 986. *Reg. Gen.*

ENTRY.

I. Notwithstanding occupation by a wrong-doer, 879. *Devise*, III. 1.

II. Notwithstanding illegal lease, 857. *Landlord and Tenant*, I. 7.

III. By reversioner, when and how, 879. *Devise*, III. 1.

EQUITY.

I. Compensation for equitable interest, 463. *Compensation*.

II. Equitable appropriation or assignment of funds, 375. *Bankrupt*, I. 1.

III. Affecting indorsee of overdue note, 375. *Bills*, III.

IV. Transfer of equitable interest, 292. *Bond*, I. 1.

V. Suit in.

Praying an injunction, reference of, 576. *Arbitration*, IX. 1.

ERROR.

I. When it lies.

Under stat. 11 G. 4. & 1 W. 4. c. 70. s. 8. error lies to the Court of Exchequer Chamber on judgments given in the Queen's Bench upon error from the Common Pleas at Lancaster. *Neblett v. Rishton*, 426.

II. Practice as to transcript, 432.

ESTATE.

I. Legal. *Legal Estate*.

II. For life.

Incumbent's, 468. *Justice*, I.

III. Of perpetual curate in lands annexed by governors of Queen Anne's bounty, 556. *Curate*, III.

IV. Of trustees under a devise for certain purposes, 879. *Devise*, III. 1.

V. What passes under the word, 719. *Devise*, I. 1.

ESTOPPEL.

I. Of courts from inquiring into privilege of parliament, 165. *Parliament*.

II. 1. Of parties coming in under common consent rule, 662. *Ejectment*, II.

2. Of party coming in under devisor, 662. *Ejectment*, II.

III. By conduct.

1. Mortgagee, 342. *Mortgage*, II. 1.

2. Against partner signing in the style of the firm, 314. *Shipping*, I. 1.

3. By use of wrong name, 840. *Misnomer*, I.

4. By acquiescence in an order obtained in an amicable suit, 255. *Statute*, XXIII.

5. By payment of rent as between landlord and tenant, 255. *Statute*, XXIII.

IV. Effect of receipt, 641. *Receipt*.

V. No estoppel.

1. Not by judgment in actions not identical, 508. *Vendor*, I. 1.

2. What plea tenant may plead, 809. *Landlord and Tenant*, XVII. 1.

ET SIC.

EVIDENCE, II, 3-5,-X, 1. 1017

p. 809. *Landlord and Tenant*, XVII. 1.

Plea of, 809. *Landlord and Tenant,*
XVII. 1.

I. When required, and from whom.

1. That right of common has been enlarged into a greater interest, 444. *Poor*, VI. 3.
2. Not of documents under seal of Insolvent Debtors' Court, 554. *Post*, VII. 1.
3. Of title in an ejectment, 662. *Ejectment*, II.
4. Bonâ fide claim of right by party charged with malicious trespass, 704. *Trespas*, IV. 1.

1. Objector must shew clearly that it is a continuing interest, 314. *Shipping*, I. 1.
2. Liability as agent, 314. *Shipping*, I. 1.
3. Liability as servant.

Plaintiffs employed *B.*, a broker, to sell goods for them, and to deliver such goods in the port of *London*, according to the contracts of sale. *E.*, a lighterman, acted in the delivery of the goods, under *B.*'s direction, and was employed by the plaintiffs so to do, and was paid by them. Plaintiffs, through *B.*, contracted with a purchaser for the sale to him of a parcel of goods, to be paid for on delivery. The goods were delivered without payment; and the price was, in consequence, lost. In an action by plaintiffs against *B.* for the breach of duty, they called *E.* to prove that, while he was waiting for *B.*'s orders as to the delivery, a person whom *E.* supposed to have proper authority, but who really had not, desired *E.* to carry them alongside a certain vessel, which he did without orders from *B.*, and the goods were taken away, as on behalf of the purchaser; that *E.* informed *B.* of what had happened, and, upon hearing that *B.* had given no orders,

Vol. IX.

said it was not too late to stop the goods, and he would do so; but that *B.* prevented him, and did not, himself, take proper measures to stop them:

Held, that *E.* was incompetent by reason of his liability to the plaintiffs as their servant. *Boorman v. Brown*, 487.

4. As tenant in possession, 662. *Ejectment*, II.
5. Overseer in a parish appeal, 714. *Poor*, XIV.

III. Objection, when to be taken.

To want of stamp, 644. *Landlord and Tenant*. l. 5.

IV. Presumption. *Presumption.*

V. In the nature of an estoppel. *Estoppel.*

VI. Documentary, generally.

1. Stamp. *Stamp.*
2. Interlineation, 926. *Interlineation,*
I.

VII. Documentary, authentication.

- 1. Seal of Court.**

If a document be produced, under sect. 76 of the Insolvent Debtors' Act, stat. 7 G. 4. c. 57., with a seal purporting to be the seal of the Insolvent Debtors' Court, it is not necessary to prove that the seal is actually the seal of the Court. *Doe dem. Duncan v. Edwards*. 554.

- 2. Attestation of due exercise of power,**
936. *Power. I.*

VIII. Particular documents.

1. Writ of sequestration, though no award in judgment roll, 468. *Justice*, I.
2. Proceedings in Insolvent Debtors' Court, 554. *Anie*, VII. 1.
3. Receipt fraudulently signed, 641. *Receipt*.

IX. Admissions on the pleadings.

1. Effect of declaration admitting part payment, or coupled with such admissions in particulars, 245. 248. *Payment*, V. 2, 3.
2. By pleading over, 268. *Arrest*, II.
3. By demurring, 286. n. *Slander*, II.

X. Other admissions.

1. Recognition by attornment, when
 3 Y not

1018 EVIDENCE, X. 1—3.—XII.

not retrospective, 342. *Mortgage*, II. 1.

2. Fraudulent, 641. *Receipt*.

3. By adoption of name on one occasion, 840. *Misnomer*, I.

XI. Of particular facts.

1. Of several contracts by one partner, 514. *Shipping*, I.

2. Of tenancy, by attornment, 542. *Mortgage*, II. 1.

3. Of enlargement of right of common into a greater interest, 444. *Poor*, VI. 3.

4. Of sequestration, 468. *Justice*, I.

5. Bonâ fide claim of right, 704. *Trespass*, IV. 1.

6. That it was as well known by another name, 840. *Misnomer*, I.

XII. Practice on orders of removal.

1. When to be shewn on face of order, 619. *Poor*, XVI. 1.

2. What examinations to be sent, 836. *Poor*, XII.

EXAMINATION.

I. Of attorneys, 728. *Attorney*, I. 1.

II. What to be sent with order of removal, 836. *Poor*, XII.

EXCEPTION.

I. By parol, to release under seal, 854. *Bills*, VII. 1.

II. Implied, 731. 783. *Habeas corpus*, I.

EXCHEQUER CHAMBER.

I. Sittings of the Court, how arranged, 433. n.

II. Error to, 426. *Error*, I.

EXECUTION.

Form of writs, 986. *Reg. Gen.*

EXERCISE.

Of Power, 936. *Power*, I.

FACT.

Question of, 815. *Poor*, VI. 4.

FORMS.

FAIR.

See 406. *Custom*, IV. 1.

FALSE RETURN.

Sheriff.

FALSEHOOD.

In return to habeas corpus, 731. 804. *Habeas corpus*, I.

FATHER.

Putative. *Poor*, XVI.

FEME.

Baron and Feme.

FEOFFEE.

Of charity lands, 255. *Statute*, XXIII.

FIERI FACIAS.

I. Forms of writ, 986. *Reg. Gen.*

II. Out of county court, 288. *Sheriff*, III.

FILIATION.

p. 619. *Poor*, XVI.

FILING.

Return to habeas corpus, 731. *Habeas corpus*, I.

FINALITY.

Arbitration, VIII.

FINDING.

Of sessions, 815. *Poor*, VI. 4.

FOREIGNER.

Alien.

FORFEITURE.

I. Acts not necessarily importing, 879. *Devise*, III. 1.

II. By devise, 719. *Devise*, I. 1.

III. Of deposit, 508. *Vendor*, I. 1.

FORMS.

Of writs of elegit and *fi. fa.*, 986. *Reg. Gen.*
FRAUD.

FRAUD.

FRAUD.

- I. Receipt fraudulently given by one of several partners, 641. *Receipt.*
- II. Fraudulent purpose, how shewn in indictment, 686. *Conspiracy.*
- III. Indictment for fraudulent conspiracy, 686. *Conspiracy.*

FRAUDS, STATUTE OF. *Statute, XI.*

FRAUDULENT REMOVAL. *Pleading, 457. Plea, VII.*

FUTURE DAMAGE. *Award upon, 522. Arbitration, X.*

GAME.

Gamekeeper.

I. His deputation under what act.

A gamekeeper authorised to seize the dogs of unqualified persons sporting on a manor, by a deputation given before stat. 1 & 2 W. 4. c. 32., and not renewed, cannot justify seizing the dogs of uncertificated persons committing such trespass, since the passing of the act.

Nor is he entitled to notice of action under stat. 1 & 2 W. 4. c. 32. s. 47., on the ground that he bonâ fide supposed himself to be acting in pursuance of the statute. *Lidster v. Borrow, 654.*

II. His right to seize dogs, 654. *Antè, I.*

III. When entitled to notice of action, 654. *Antè, I.*

GENERALITY.

- I. In pleading. *Pleading, VI.*
- II. In attestation, 936. *Power, I.*

GENERAL ISSUE.

In trover, 861. *Trover, I.*

GENERAL RULES. *Rules, General.*

HABEAS CORPUS, I. 1019

GOODS.

Symbolical delivery, 895. *Vendor, II. 5.*

GRANT.

Implied covenant in, 832. *Assumpsit, I.*

GUARANTEE.

I. Effect of interlineation, 926. *Interlineation, I.*

II. Continuing.

Debt against A. on a joint and several bond by A., B., and C. By the condition (which recited an agreement by the plaintiffs, bankers, to advance monies, not exceeding 200*l.* at any one time, to B. on security), the bond was to be void if A., B., and C., or either of them, should pay to the plaintiffs all such sums not exceeding 200*l.* as plaintiffs should advance for or on account of bills from time to time drawn by B. on plaintiffs, within three calendar months "after receiving notice to pay such sums." Held, that the bond was a continuing security.

Held also, on general demurrer, that, in assigning a breach of the condition, it was not enough to aver that defendant "had and received notice" that certain sums were due from B., without averring a notice or request to pay. *Batson v. Spearman, 298.*

III. Pleading.

Request, 298. *Antè, II.*

IV. See also, 575. *Bankrupt, I. 1.*

GUARDIAN.

Of union, 901. 911. *Poor, I.*

HABEAS CORPUS.

I. At common law.

Who may issue in vacation.

At common law, a Judge of the Court of King's Bench may grant in vacation a writ of *habeas corpus ad subjiciendum*, returnable immediately at chambers, to bring up the body of a party in custody in execution of a criminal sentence.

After the return to the *habeas corpus* has been put in and read, it is considered as filed; but the Court has nevertheless power to amend it.

The return to a habeas corpus, directed to the gaoler of *Liverpool*, set out a statute of *Upper Canada* (passed after stat. 5 G. 4. c. 84.), to enable the government thereof to extend a conditional pardon to persons concerned in the late insurrection, whereby it was enacted that, on the petition of any person charged with high treason there committed, preferred, before arraignment, to the Lieutenant Governor, confessing such person's guilt, and praying for pardon, the Lieutenant Governor might grant a pardon on such conditions as might appear proper, which pardon was to have the effect of an attainder for high treason, so far as regarded realty and personality; and that, where a person, pardoned on condition of transportation or banishment from the province, should return, contrary to the condition, this should be a capital felony; the return also set out other statutes (passed after stat. 5 G. 4. c. 84.), whereby it appeared that both transportation and banishment were inflicted in certain cases by the criminal law of *Upper Canada*, and that they were also imposed as commutations for the punishment of death in cases of capital conviction; the place of transportation, in either case, to be declared under the sign manual of the Lieutenant Governor. The return then stated that the prisoner, having been indicted for high treason, had, before arraignment, petitioned, confessed, and prayed for pardon, and had been pardoned on condition of being transported for his life to *Van Diemen's Land*, to which he had assented; that, there being no means of transporting him thither directly from *Upper Canada*, it was necessary to take him to *Quebec*, in *Lower Canada*, being the most convenient place for the purpose; and that he was conveyed, by warrant of the Lieutenant Governor of *Upper Canada*, to *Lower Canada*; and, on his arrival there, was, by warrant of the Governor of *Lower Canada*, delivered into the custody of the sheriff of *Quebec*, for safe keeping till he could be transported; that, there being no means of conveying the prisoner directly from *Lower Canada* to *Van Diemen's Land*, it was necessary to convey him to *England*, to be taken

thence to *Van Diemen's Land*; and that, by letters patent of the Queen under the great seal of *Lower Canada*, the master of the bark *C.* was commanded to receive the prisoner from the sheriff of *Quebec*, and carry him to such part of *Great Britain* as should seem fit to the Queen, that he might be thence transported to *Van Diemen's Land*, and to deliver him, in *England*, to the custody of such person as should be authorized to receive him; that the master received him from the sheriff, and carried him to *Liverpool*, which place seemed fit to the Queen, and was the most convenient in that behalf; and, there not being means ready to convey him to *Van Diemen's Land*, it was necessary to place him in safe custody till means could be provided; and that, the gaol of *Liverpool* being the most fit custody, the master delivered him to the gaoler, who kept him in custody while such means were preparing. Held, a good return. For,

(1.) The provincial legislature, under stat. 31 G. 3. c. 51., had the power to pass laws for transportation *extra fines*, which power is recognised in stat. 5 G. 4. c. 84. s. 17.; and they might empower the governor to pardon on such conditions "as might appear proper." Therefore

(2.) The condition of transportation might here be legally annexed to the pardon, with the prisoner's assent.

(3.) The crown had a right to enforce the condition; and the Queen's subjects, without the province of *Upper Canada*, were justified in assisting, the province not being a foreign country.

(4.) It was not necessary that the return should specially set out the documents referred to.

(5.) The crown might appoint *Van Diemen's Land* as a place of transportation, and the Court would presume that proper steps had been taken for the prisoner's reception there.

A similar return held good, where the condition was transportation for fourteen years from the prisoner's arrival in *Van Diemen's Land*.

The like, where the returns stated capital convictions for high treason and felony, and commutations of the sentences,

sentences, not specifying the treason or felony.

Held, also, that the return must be taken to be true on the motion to discharge out of custody; and need not be verified by affidavit. *Quære*, whether there be any and what mode (other than by action) of impeaching the truth of such a return, or of introducing new matter?

It appeared on affidavit, that in the mandatory part of the letters patent addressed to the master of the bark, the prisoner's name was omitted, though it stood in the recital; and that the return, as originally drawn, had set out the letters patent, which were also incorrect in other particulars; but that the present return, stating the substance as above, had been drawn by counsel, and filed instead of the original return.

Held, that the gaoler might substitute a return drawn by counsel for that originally prepared.

It appearing by affidavit that the omission of the name was unknown to the gaoler, an attachment against him was refused, though the Court considered him blameable for negligence.

Held, that the letters patent were immaterial; but that, had the return been intentionally false, the gaoler would not have been protected by the immateriality, nor by the circumstance that the prisoner had not been injured by the falsehood. *Leonard Watson's Case*, 731.

II. Return.

1. Negligence in making, 731. 804. *Antè*, I.
2. What must be set out, 731. 785. *Antè*, I.
3. Degree of correctness required, 731. 787. *Antè*, I.
4. Not required to be verified by affidavit, 731. 794. *Antè*, I.
5. To be received as true, 731. 782. 795. *Antè*, I.
6. Of what the Court will take judicial notice, 731. 783. *Antè*, I.
7. Truth how questioned, 731. 785. 795. *Antè*, I.
8. Attachment for false return, 731. 794. *Antè*, I.

9. Amendment of return, 731. 804. *Antè*, I.

10. Introduction of new matter, 731. *Antè*, I.

HARBOURING SERVANTS.

p. 693. *Master and Servant*.

HIGH TREASON.

Proceedings in the colonies, 731. *Habeas corpus*, I.

HIGHWAY.

I. Repair by tithing.

Where a parish consists of several tithings, each of which has immemorably repaired its own highways, the parish cannot form a board under sect. 18 of 5 & 6 W. 4. c. 50. (Highway Act); and rates made by such board, although separately for each tithing, are bad. *Regina v. Bush*, 820.

II. Formation of board, 820. *Antè*, I.

HIRING.

Contract of, 693. *Master and Servant*, I. 1.

HOLDING OVER.

By undertenant, 849. *Landlord and Tenant*, IX.

HUSBAND AND WIFE.

Baron and Feme.

IDENTITY.

I. Ascertainment of, 895. *Vendor*, II. 5.

II. Of actions, 508. *Vendor*, I. 1.

IGNORANCE.

Of fact, 699. *Arbitration*, III.

ILLEGALITY.

I. Of lease or agreement, 857. *Landlord and Tenant*, I. 7.

II. Employment of apprentice in illegal sales, 310. *Poor*, IX.

ILLEGITIMATE.

Bastard. Poor, XVI.

IMMATERIALITY.

In pleading. *Pleading, XXI.*

IMPLICATION.

Exception by, 751. 785. *Habeas corpus, I.*

IMPRISONMENT.

I. Consent to, 751. 783. *Habeas corpus, I.*

II. When it does not constitute a separation of husband and wife, 622. *Poor, VIII.*

IMPROVEMENTS.

Compensation for, 463. *Compensation.*

INCOMPETENCY.

By interest. *Evidence, II.*

INCONSISTENCY.

In pleading, 303. *Pleading, XXIV.*

INCUMBENT.

p. 468. *Justice, I.*

INCUMBRANCE.

What, 468. *Justice, I.*

INDEMNITY.

I. Accruer of cause of action.

On a contract to indemnify a plaintiff against costs, which he is afterwards called upon to pay, the cause of action arises when he pays, not when the costs are incurred, or the attorney's bill delivered to such plaintiff.

Therefore the Statute of Limitation runs from the time of payment. *Collinge v. Heywood, 653.*

II. Statute of Limitations, 633. *Ante, I.*

INDICTMENT.

I. For conspiracy to defraud, 686. *Conspiracy.*

II. When it need not shew names, 686. *Conspiracy.*

III. When it must shew particulars of fraud, 686. *Conspiracy.*

IV. Statement of means, 686. *Conspiracy.*

INDORSEE.

Bills.

INDUCEMENT.

In pleading. *Pleading, XIX.*

INFERIOR COURT.

Court, IV.

INFORMATION.

Criminal Information. Quo Warranto.

INJUNCTION.

Reference of suit praying, 576. *Arbitration, IX. 1.*

INNUENDO.

Libel. Slander.

INSOLVENT.

I. Who to bear the loss on insolvency of correspondent, 607. *Agent, III. 2.*

II. Effect of discharge as to scheduled debts : where the insolvent afterwards becomes covert.

Discharge of the wife under the Insolvent Debtors' Act, 7 G. 4. c. 57., before marriage is a bar to an action against husband and wife in respect of one of the scheduled debts.

Semble, that where a discharged female insolvent acquires property and marries, whereby the property vests in her husband, the statute affords no remedy by which it can be made available to her former creditors. *Storr v. Lee, 868.*

III. Proof of proceedings of court, 554. *Evidence, VIII. 1.*

INSURANCE.

Marine.

Average

INSURANCE.

Average loss.

By increase of freight, 314. 337. *Shipping*, I. 1.

INTENDMENT.

In support of validity of colonial proceedings, 731. 783. *Habeas corpus*, I.

INTENT.

Admission of, on the pleadings, 268. 286. n. *Arrest*, II. *Slander*, II.

INTEREST.

I. Of witness. *Evidence*, II.

II. What renders bridge rateable, 828. *Poor*, VI. 2.

INTERLINEATION.

I. Effect of.

Assumpsit on a written guarantee, set forth in the declaration. Plea, Non Assumpsit. On the trial, the instrument appeared to have been interlined, so as materially to alter its effect; but, without the interlining, it corresponded to the declaration. The jury found that the interlineation was made after the instrument was executed.

Held, that plaintiff was entitled to the verdict, whether or not he was privy to the alteration; the effect of the alteration, if any, being only to discharge or modify the original contract, and therefore constituting a defence which required to be shewn by way of confession and avoidance. *Hemming v. Trenery*, 928.

II. A defence which must be pleaded, 926. *Ante*, I.

INTERPRETATION.

Construction.

ISSUE.

Immaterial, 499. *Plea*, IV. 2.

JUDGE.

I. Grant of habeas corpus ad subjiciendum by, 731. *Habeas corpus*, I.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, I. 1033

II. Not liable for false return by officer, 288. *Sheriff*, III.

III. Sometimes sits in error on his own judgment, 426. 431. *Error*, I.

IV. Death of without granting certificate, 702. *Costs*, IV.

JUDGMENT.

I. Signing.

For want of a replication, 505. *Costs*, III.

II. Second.

When it does not effect a merger, 288. *Sheriff*, III.

III. When it cannot be pleaded by a third party, 288. *Sheriff*, III.

IV. Prayer of, 861. *Trover*, I.

JUDGMENT RECOVERED.

When no estoppel, 508. *Vendor*, I. 1.

JUDICIAL NOTICE.

Of colonial legal proceedings, 731 783 *Habeas corpus*, I.

JURISDICTION.

I. Of courts of law in questions of parliamentary privilege, 1. 110. 162. *Parliament*.

II. Under Malicious Trespass Act, 704. *Trespass*, IV. 1.

III. On face of order, 619. *Poor*, XVI. 1.

IV. Plea of exclusive, 499. *Plea*, IV. 2.

JURY.

Question for, 548. *Master and Servant*, II.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.

I. Qualification.

Where the qualification of a justice of the peace is an ecclesiastical benefice, a sequestration, issued at the suit of a creditor, under which possession has been duly taken, and the profits received, is an "incumbrance affecting the estate" within stat. 18 G. 2. c. 20. s. 1.

In a penal action against the incumbent for acting as a justice without being qualified, the writ of sequestrari facias is admissible in evidence against him, although the judgment roll contains no entry of an award of the writ.

Upon issuing such sequestration against a vicar, the bishop licensed him as a stipendiary curate; directed the sequestrator to pay him 120*l.* a year as such; and assigned to him the vicarage house and grounds as a residence, which were together worth above 100*l.* a year.

Held, 1. That the salary and the grounds, being enjoyed by assignment of the bishop, and not simply as vicar, were no qualification within the above statute: 2. That the vicar, being bound to reside notwithstanding sequestration, occupied the house by right as vicar, and not by the bishop's assignment, which *quoad hoc* was merely void; but that such house, unless proved to be alone worth 100*l.* a year, was no qualification. *Pack v. Tarpley*, 468.

II. Jurisdiction.

1. Under old bastardy laws, 682. *Poor*, XVI. 2.
2. In cases of malicious trespass, 704. *Trespass*, IV. 1.

III. Mandamus to.

To commit putative father of bastard, 682. *Poor*, XVI. 2.

IV. Rule against.

Discharged with costs, 704. *Trespass*, IV. 1.

JUSTIFICATION.

Plea.

KENSINGTON.

Cambden charity, 255. *Statute*, XXIII.

KING'S BENCH.

Queen's Bench.

KNOWLEDGE.

Scienter.

LACHES.

Of indorsee, 275. *Bills*, III.

LANCASTER.

Number of writs of error on judgment in, 426. *Error*, I.

LANDLORD.

Defence as, 662. *Ejectment*, II.

LANDLORD AND TENANT.

I. Tenancy, how created.

1. By building workhouse on charity lands under a local act, 255. *Statute*, XXIII.
2. Licence to demise copyholds, 539. *Copyhold*, II.
3. Not by mere notice from mortgagee to mortgagor's lessee, 342. *Mortgage*, II. 1.
4. Lease by perpetual curate, 556. *Curate*, III.
5. Agreement or lease.

Tenant being in possession under a demise for three years ending *Michaelmas* 1838, at a rent payable at *Michaelmas*, the landlord and tenant agreed in writing as follows. Memorandum of agreement made 13th December 1834, between &c.: *P.* (the landlord) agrees to let the farm &c. to *B.* (the tenant) for fourteen years, determinable at the end of seven years with twelve months' notice (not stating the commencement), at the yearly rent of 20*l.*, payable half-yearly; a lease to be drawn upon the usual terms by *T.* And *B.* agrees to take it upon the said terms.

Held, a present lease, commencing on December 13th, 1834.

The paper had only an agreement stamp. On the trial of an ejectment, it was given in evidence as an agreement. The counsel producing it were afterwards obliged, during the trial, to rely upon it as a lease. No objection was then or previously taken to the stamp. On argument in banc, as to the operation of the document, the want of a proper stamp was urged. Held, that the objection came too late, and should have been taken at that period of the trial when counsel first stated that they should rely upon the instrument as a lease. *Doc. dem. Phillip v. Benjamin*, 644.

6. Tenancy

6. Tenancy or ancillary occupation, 824. *Poor*, XI. 6.

7. By illegal lease or agreement.

Trespass for entering plaintiff's house and expelling him. Plea, that plaintiff was an alien artificer; that defendant unlawfully agreed to grant, and plaintiff to take, a lease of the house for twenty-one years; that plaintiff took possession on the faith and terms of such agreement, and with the view and intent to carry the same into execution, and not otherwise; therefore defendant entered &c., the door being open and no person therein of whom he could demand possession.

Held, that the plea was good, as shewing either a lease void by stat. 32 Hen. 8. c. 16.; or possession in pursuance of an illegal agreement for such a lease; and that in either case the plaintiff could not maintain the action. *Lapierre v. McIntosh*, 857.

II. Tenancy from year to year.

As distinguished from tenancy for one year.

Land was let for one year, and so on from year to year, until the tenancy should be determined as was after mentioned, with a subsequent proviso, that three months should be sufficient notice to be given from either party, and another subsequent proviso, that it should be lawful for either party to determine the tenancy by giving three months' notice. Held, that the tenancy was not determinable by three months' notice expiring before the end of the second year. *Doe dem. Chadborn v. Green*, 658.

III. Tenancy at will.

Under illegal lease or agreement, 857. *Ante*, I. 7.

IV. Duration of tenancy.

1. Affirmation of, by distress, 849. *Post*, IX.

2. Termination by tender of possession, 849. *Post*, IX.

3. Termination by giving up the key, 879. *Devise*, III. 1.

4. Occupation for a year, 626. *Poor*, X. 1.

5. A term for years lasts during the whole of the anniversary of the day from which it was granted, 879. *Devise*, III. 1.

V. Attornment.

When not retrospective, 842. *Mortgage*, II. 1.

VI. Assignment.

1. Remedies of assignee against lessee for distress by lessor, 533. *Assumpsit*, I.

2. Proviso for forfeiture on, 719. *Devise*, I. 1.

VII. Forfeiture.

1. Acts not necessarily amounting to, 879. *Devise*, III. 1.

2. By devise, 719. *Devise*, I. 1.

VIII. Surrender.

1. Ineffectual attempt, 626. *Poor*, X. 1.

2. Tender of possession, 849. *Post*, IX.

3. Acts not necessarily importing, 879. *Devise*, III. 1.

IX. Holding over.

Liability of tenant on holding over by undertenant.

Lessee for a term ending on 11th October underlet to C. from year to year, subject to the determination of his own interest. Upon the expiration of the term, C. refused to quit, and held over against the will of the lessee. On 16th October the lessee distrained on him for rent due before the 11th. On 14th December C. quitted; and the lessee then tendered possession to the original landlord, who refused to accept it. Held, that the lessee was liable, in an action for use and occupation, to pay rent to his landlord for the period between the 11th October and 14th December, but not for any longer period. *Ibb v. Richardson*, 849.

X. Notice to quit.

1. When it must not be to quit earlier than the end of the second year, 658. *Ante*, II.

2. Not necessary where tenancy illegal, 857. *Ante*, I. 7.

3. Waiver of, 626. *Poor*, X. 1.

XI. Rent.

1. Effect of payment under order in amicable suit, 855. *Statute*, XXIII.

2. Effect

2. Effect of payment to mortgagee, 342. *Mortgage*, II. 1.
3. Effect of payment by assignee to lessor, 532. *Assumpsit*, I.

XII. Landlord.

1. Defence as, 662. *Ejectment*, II.
2. Entry on expiration of term, 879. *Devise*, III. 1.
3. Entry on person holding under illegal demise, 857. *Antè*, I. 7.

XIII. Tenant.

1. Alien artificer, 857. *Antè*, I. 7.
2. Compensation to, by public company, 463. *Compensation*.
3. 'His relation to mortgagee, 342. *Mortgage*, II. 1. 809. *Post*, XVII. 1.
4. Liability for acts of undertenant, 849. *Antè*, IX.
5. Giving up possession to a stranger, 879. *Devise*, III. 1.

XIV. Mortgage, 342. *Mortgage*, II. 1. 809. *Post*, XVII. 1.

XV. Third persons.

1. Trespass by: plea of fraudulent removal, 457. *Plea*, VII.
2. Plea of payment to mortgagee, 809. *Post*, XVII. 1.
3. Giving up possession to, 879. *Devise*, III. 1.

XVI. Estoppel.

1. By acquiescence in payment of rent under an order obtained in an amicable suit, 255. *Statute*, XXIII.
2. By permitting mortgagor in possession to lease, 342. *Mortgage*, II. 1.
3. In ejectment, 662. *Ejectment*, II.

XVII. Pleading.

1. Payment to mortgagee.
To an avowry for rent the tenant may plead payment of it to a mortgagee, to whom the premises had been mortgaged in fee before the demise to the plaintiff, and who had demanded payment from the plaintiff, and threatened "to put the law in force" in case of refusal. Such plea is, in substance, a plea of payment, and not

of *nil habuit in tenementis*, nor of *eviction*: and where the plea set out the facts at large, and concluded *et sic riens in arrears*, with a verification, held, that it was not specially demurrable on the ground that it amounted to a plea of *riens in arrears* and should have concluded to the country. *Johnson v. Jones*, 809.

2. Payment to superior landlord, 345. *Payment*, V. 2.
3. Plea of fraudulent removal, 457. *Plea*, VII.

LEASE.

- I. Custom to demise, 339. *Copyhold*, II.
- II. By ecclesiastical person, 556. *Curate*, III.
- III. See also *Landlord and Tenant*.

LEASEHOLD.

Devise of, 719. *Devise*, I. 1.

LEGAL ESTATE.

Of charity lands, when vested in parish officers, 255. *Statute*, XXIII.

LETTER.

- I. For payment of money, 375. *Bankrupt*, I. 1.
- II. Letters of pardon, 751. 784. *Habeas corpus*, I.

LIABILITY.

- I. To costs, 714. *Poor*, XIV.
- II. As servant, 487. *Evidence*, II. 3.
- III. Of husband for debts of wife, 668. *Insolvent*, II.

LIBEL.

- I. In a proceeding of the House of Commons, 1. 122. *Parliament*.
- II. Whether sale makes any difference, 149. *Parliament*.
- III. What is not libellous per se, 282. *Post*, IV.
- IV. Pleading.
Effect of the innuendo.

A de-

LIBEL, IV., V.

A declaration for libel alleged, without any material introductory averment, that defendant published of and concerning plaintiff the false, scandalous, and defamatory libel following, viz.: "Notice,—any person giving information where any property may be found belonging to *H. G.* (meaning the plaintiff), a prisoner in the King's Bench prison, but residing within the rules thereof, shall receive 5 per cent. upon the goods recovered, for their trouble, by applying at *Mr. L.*" &c. (meaning the defendant, and meaning that the plaintiff had been and was guilty of concealing his property with a fraudulent and unlawful intention). Held, on general demurrer, that the innuendo, unsupported by any prefatory averment, was too large; and that the words, in themselves, were not actionable. *Gomperiz v. Levy*, 282.

V. See also *Slander*.

LIBERTY.

Habeas Corpus. Parliament.

LICENCE.

- I. To demise, 339. *Copyhold*, II.
- II. As stipendiary curate, 468. *Justice*, I.

LIFE.

- I. What words pass leaseholds for lives, 719. *Devise*, I. 1.
- II. Estate. *Estate*, II.

LIMITATION.

- I. Statutes of. *Statute*, VIII.
- II. Of claims, by rules of savings' bank. 729. *Savings' Bank*, I.

LIS PENDENS.

When no plea, 268. *Arrest*, II.

LOCAL ACT.

Statute, XXXVIII. to XLIII.

LONDON.

By-laws of the Turners' Company, 556. *Corporation*, III.

MANDAMUS, I.—III. 1—4. 1027

LORD.

Of manor. *Copyhold*.

LOT.

Appointment by, 699. *Arbitration*, III.

MAGISTRATE.

Justice.

MAINTENANCE.

- I. Order of, 682. *Poor*, XVI. 2.
- II. Of bastard, 619. *Poor*, XVI. 1.
- III. Costs not ordered against instigator of trespasses leading to a criminal information, 704. *Trespass*, IV. 1.

MALICE.

- I. When admitted by pleading over, 268. *Arrest*, II.
- II. When a ground of action, 268. *Arrest*, II.

MALICIOUS ARREST.

Arrest, II.

MALICIOUS TRESPASS.

Trespass, IV.

MANDAMUS.

- I. When granted.
 1. To replace a name on burgess list, 670. *Statute*, XXXIV. 1.
 2. Though the list sought to be corrected is no longer in operation, 670. *Statute*, XXXIV. 1.
 3. To justice to commit putative father of bastard, 682. *Poor*, XVI. 2.
- II. When not peremptory in the first instance, 670. *Statute*, XXXIV. 1.
- III. When refused.
 1. To lord of manor to grant licence, 539. *Copyhold*, II.
 2. To justice to do a judicial act, 540. *Certiorari*, II. 1.
 3. To do an act interfering with a statutory protection, 540. *Certiorari*, II. 1.
 4. To do an act which the party has no power to do, 540. *Certiorari*, II. 1.
 5. When

5. When leading to no result, 729.
Savings' Bank, 1.

IV. Direction, 670. *Statute*, XXXIV. 1.

MANOR.

Copyhold. Game.

MARRIAGE.

Baron and Feme.

MASTER AND SERVANT.

I. Contract.

1. Must be mutual.

B. contracted in writing to work for plaintiff in his trade, and for no other person, during twelve months, and so on from twelve months to twelve months, until *B.* should give notice of quitting.

Held, that such agreement was invalid under stat. 29 C. 2. c. 3. s. 4. for want of mutuality.

And that this objection might be taken by the defendant in an action by plaintiff for harbouring *B.*, who, as plaintiff alleged, had quitted him without proper notice. *Sykes v. Dixon*, 693.

2. Within Statute of Frauds, 693.
Antè, 1.

3. When stranger may object to invalidity, 693. *Antè*, 1.

II. Causes of dismissal.

If a clerk, retained at a salary to manage a mercantile business, declares that he is a partner, and will transact the business as such, the employer may immediately dismiss him. Although the party has not committed any other act of misconduct, nor refused, in terms, to go on as clerk. *Amor v. Fearon*, 548.

III. 1. Servant or Tenant, 662. *Ejection*, II.

2. Occupation as servant, 824. *Poor*, XI. 5.

IV. Servant when an incompetent witness, 487. *Evidence*, II. 3.

V. Action for harbouring, 693. *Antè*, I. 1.

MISNOMER, I.

MATERIALITY.

Of issue, 499. *Plea*, IV. 2.

MAXIMS.

Fortius contra proferentem, 314. *Shipping*, I. 1.

MAYOR.

Municipal Corporation.

MEANS.

Statement of fraudulent, 686. *Conspiracy*.

MERGER.

Of remedies, 288. *Sheriff*, III.

MIDDLESEX.

County rate, 540. *Certiorari*, II. 1.

MISCHIEF.

Malicious, 704. *Trespass*, IV. 1.

MISCONDUCT.

Of servant, 548. *Master and Servant*, II.

MISNOMER.

Of defendant.

I. Sheriff, how affected.

Declaration against a sheriff for taking insufficient bail, &c., alleged a capias against *Frederick S.* by the name of *William S.*, and an arrest under it by defendant, and that *Frederick S.* was known as well by the name of *William*, as *Frederick*, whereof defendant had notice; and that, before the debt accrued, he had often admitted to plaintiff that he was known by the name of *William*, whereof defendant had notice at the time of arrest. Plea, that, at the time of the arrest, *Frederick S.* was not known, nor had defendant notice that he was known, as well by the name of *William* as *Frederick*; and that Defendant arrested *Frederick S.* on the false information of plaintiff's agent, that he was the

the *William S.* described in the writ; and that *Frederick*, being so arrested, did not admit himself to be *William S.* &c. Verification.

Held, that the averment, in the declaration, of the frequent admissions by *Frederick S.* was superfluous, and mere matter of evidence; that so much of the plea as denied that *Frederick S.* was known as well by one name as the other, and that defendant had notice thereof, was a complete answer, and ought to have concluded to the country; and that the rest of it was immaterial and redundant, and ground of special demurrer; but that the plea was good on general demurrer.

Quære, whether the use of a wrong name, on a single occasion, by the party arrested, will support an allegation that he was known by that name? *Brunskill v. Robertson*, 840.

II. Pleading, 840. *Ante*, I.

MISTAKE.

I. Assent under, 699. *Arbitration*, III.

II. In supposition that the party filled a particular character, 654. *Gawie*.

MONEY.

Remittance, 607. *Agent*, III. 2.

MONEY HAD AND RECEIVED.

Assumpsit, II.

MONEY PAID.

Assumpsit, III.

MORTGAGE.

I. By assignment of bond, 292. *Bond*, I. 1.

II. Mortgagee.

1. His rights against lessee of mortgageor in possession.

Where a mortgageor in possession makes a lease, after the mortgage, reserving rent, the mortgagee cannot, by merely giving the lessee notice of the mortgage, and that principal and interest are in arrear, and requiring such lessee to pay the rent to him, make the lessee his tenant, or entitle himself to distrain for rent subsequently accruing under the terms of the lease.

Nor, if, after such mortgagee's death, his executors distrain for rent accrued before his death, but after the notice, and avow upon a holding by the lessee under the terms of the original lease, as tenant to the mortgagee, will such avowry be supported by proof that, after the mortgagee's death, the lessee paid the executors rent, in sums and at periods corresponding to the reservation in the lease, and recognised them as his landlords by letter: such a recognition not having relation back to the notice.

Quære, how far the mortgagee by his own conduct, as by permitting the mortgageor to remain in possession and to lease, without interfering, may preclude himself from treating the mortgageor and his lessee as trespassers? *Evans v. Elliott*, 342.

2. Payment of rent to, 809. *Landlord and Tenant*, XVII. 1.

III. Notice of, effect of, 342. *Ante*, II. 1.

IV. Attornment of lessee, 342. *Ante*, II. 1.

MOTHER.

Corroboration of, 619. *Poor*, XVI. 1.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION.

I. Qualification of burgesses.

1. Underletting, 670. *Statute*, XXXIV. 1.

2. Distinctness of tenement, 670. *Statute*, XXXIV. 1.

II. Burgess-roll.

Mandamus to mayor to insert name, 670. *Statute*, XXXIV. 1.

III. Mayor.

Direction of mandamus to, 670. *Statute*, XXXIV. 1.

IV. Quo warrants, 680. *Statute*, XXXV. 1.

V. Borough rats.

1. Whether it may be retrospective, 871. *Statute*, XXXIV. 2.

2. Appeal not given to persons aggrieved as individuals, 871. *Statute*, XXXIV. 2.

VI. Property.

Rateability of, 435. *Poor*, VI. 1.

MUTUALITY.

MUTUALITY.

Of contract, 693. *Master and Servant*, I. 1.

NAME.

I. When not necessary in an indictment, 686. *Conspiracy*.

II. Misnomer, 840. *Misnomer*, I.

III. Alias dictus, 840. *Misnomer*, I.

IV. Evidence in support of allegation that defendant was known by a certain name, 840. *Misnomer*, I.

V. Estoppel as to, 840. *Misnomer*, I.

VI. Pleading as to, 840. *Misnomer*, I.

VII. Of things.

Nomen collectivum, 836. *Poor*, XII.

NAVIGATION.

Shipping.

NEGLIGENCE.

I. In return to habeas corpus, 731. 804. *Habeas corpus*, I.

II. Of agent or servant, 487. *Evidence* II. 3.

III. In taking note overdue, 275. *Bills*, III.

NEW ASSIGNMENT.

I. Abuse of distress, 861. *Trover*, I.

II. In assumpsit, after plea of payment, 248. *Payment*, V. 3.

NON PROS.

For want of replication, 505. *Costs*, III.

NOTICE.

I. Judicial.

Of colonial proceedings, 731. *Habeas corpus*, I.

II. Of particular facts.

1. Of irregular appointment of umpire, 699. *Arbitration*, III.

2. Of referee's decision, 536. *Stakeholder*, I.

3. By mortgagee to lessee of mortgager, effect of, 542. *Mortgage*, II. 1.

4. Of note being overdue, 275. *Bills*, III.

ORDER, I.—VIII.

III. In pleading. *Pleading*, XV.

IV. Legal notices.

1. To quit. *Landlord and Tenant*, X.

2. Of application to be examined for an attorney, 728. *Attorney*, I. 1.

3. Of action.

Under mistaken supposition of defendant that he was acting under a statute, 654. *Game*.

OBJECTION.

Time of taking, 644. *Landlord and Tenant*, I. 5.

OCCUPATION.

I. As tenant or servant, 824. *Poor*, XI. 5.

II. For a year, 626. *Poor*, X. 1.

III. Beneficial, 828. *Poor*, VI. 2.

IV. Distinct, divided, or underlet, 670. *Statute*, XXXIV. 1.

OFFICER.

I. Mistaken supposition of acting as, 654. *Game*.

II. Of a corporation, for the time being, action by, 356. *Corporation*, III.

III. Parish, 255. *Statute*, XXIII. 901. 911. *Poor*, I.

ONUS.

I. Of shewing title, 662. *Ejectment*, II.

II. Of proof. *Evidence*, I.

ORDER.

I. Of the House of Commons, 1. *Parliament*.

II. Of court.

Obtained in amicable suit, 255. *Statute*, XXIII.

III. Of sessions.

Jurisdiction, how shewn, 619. *Poor*, XVI. 1.

IV. Of removal. *Poor*.

V. Of filiation, 619. 682. *Poor*, XVI.

VI. Of poor law commissioners, 901. 911. *Poor*, I.

VII. Certiorari. *Certiorari*.

VIII. For the payment of money, 375. *Bankrupt*, I. 1.

ORDINARY.

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ORDINARY.

His consent when necessary to leases, 556. *Curate*, III.

OVERSEER.

I. When incompetent as a witness, 714. *Poor*, XIV.

II. Assistant. *Poor*, I.

OWN ACT.

I. In not directing agent to deviate from usual course, 607. *Agent*, III. 2.

II. After breach by other party, 508. *Vendor*, I. 1.

III. See also *Estoppel*.

PAPER BOOK.

What set out in, 499. n.

PARDON.

I. Conditional, 731. 784. *Habeas corpus*, I.

II. Letters of, what they must shew, 731. 784. *Habeas corpus*, I.

III. Whether in the particular case equivalent to attainder, 731. 784. *Habeas corpus*, I.

IV. Under act of colonial legislature, 731. *Habeas corpus*, I.

PARENT AND CHILD.

Poor, XVI.

PARISH.

I. Charity lands, 255. *Statute*, XXIII.

II. Divided into tithings, 820. *Highway*, I.

III. Officer. *Officer*, III.

PARLIAMENT.

I. Privilege.

1. Power of the House of Commons to order publication of its proceedings.

It is no defence in law to an action for publishing a libel, that the defamatory matter is part of a document which was by order of the House of

PARTICULARS OF DEMAND. 1031

Commons laid before the House, and thereupon became part of the proceedings of the House, and which was afterwards, by orders of the House, printed and published by defendant; and that the House of Commons heretofore resolved, declared, and adjudged, "that the power of publishing such of its reports, votes, and proceedings as it shall deem necessary or conducive to the public interests is an essential incident to the constitutional functions of Parliament, more especially to the Commons House of Parliament as the representative portion of it.

On demurrer to a plea suggesting such a defence, a court of law is competent to determine whether or not the House of Commons has such privilege as will support the plea. *Stockdale v. Hansard*, 1.

2. How far each house may judge of its own privileges, 1. 108. 161. 190. 216. *Antè*, 1.

3. How far inquirable in other courts, 1. *Antè*, 1.

II. House of Commons.

1. Power to authorise acts, 1. 107. 161. 165. 188. 203. *Antè*, I. 1.

2. Whether a separate court, 1. 147. 223. *Antè*, I. 1.

3. Power to commit for contempt, 1. 126. 169. 196. *Antè*, I. 1.

4. Printing and sale of proceedings, 1. 150. 170. 204. 237. *Antè*, I. 1.

III. Court of, 1. 193. *Antè*, I. 1.

IV. Law and custom of, 1. 194. 224. *Antè*, I. 1.

PAROL.

Exception to release under seal, 854. *Bills*, VII. 1.

PARTICULARITY.

I. In awards. *Arbitration*, VII.

II. In return to habeas corpus, 731. *Habeas corpus*, I. 1.

III. In indictment for conspiracy, 686. *Conspiracy*.

PARTICULARS OF DEMAND.

I. Whether the declaration is only for the balance, 245. *Payment*, V. 2.

II. See

II. See also, 248. *Payment*, V. 5.

PARTNER.

I. How far bound by act of copartner.

Effect of receipt signed by one partner,
641. *Receipt*.

II. Acts of individual partners.

1. Agreement to pay freight of goods, some of them the separate property of the individual, 314. *Shipping*, I. 1.

2. Signature in name of firm, 314. *Shipping*, I. 1.

3. Fraud of one partner on the firm, 641. *Receipt*.

III. Evidence of several contract, 314. *Shipping*, I. 1.

PARTY.

To rule.

What conduct does not constitute,
704. *Trespass*, IV. 1.

PASSAGE.

From colonies to penal settlements, 751.

786. *Habeas corpus*, I. 1.

PAYMENT.

I. Mode.

By remittance to credit, 607. *Agent*, III. 2.

II. Application of.

1. Equitable appropriation or assignment of funds, 375. *Bankrupt*, I. 1.

2. In pleading, 245. 248. *Post*, V.

III. Particular payments.

1. Of rent to mortgagee, 342. *Mortgage*, II. 1. 809. *Landlord and Tenant*, XVII. 1.

2. On distress by superior landlord, 532. *Assumpsit*, I.

3. Of note by party primarily liable, 275. *Bills*, III.

4. Of rates, 626. *Poor*, X. 1.

IV. Effect of.

1. Of rent, 255. *Statute*, XXIII. 342. *Mortgage*, II. 1.

2. Earnest or part payment, 508. *Vendor*, I. 1.

3. Fraudulent admission of, 641. *Receipt*.

4. When it constitutes the damage, 635. *Indemnity*, I.

V. Pleading.

1. Informal plea of, 275. *Bills*, III.

2. Plea of, to what it is to be considered as pleaded.

Declaration in debt for two years' rent, at 90*l.* per annum, due 1st November 1836; the particulars of demand giving credit for the first of the two years' rent, less 16*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.* Plea, as to 135*l.*, parcel of the said rent, that plaintiff held as tenant to C.; that, before and at the time when the said 135*l.* became due, 135*l.* was in arrear from plaintiff to C., who claimed it of defendant, and defendant paid it to C. to avoid a distress. Replication, admitting the payment to C., but averring that the sums paid by defendant were deducted from money due at the time of payment from defendant to plaintiff; and that, at the commencement of the action, 135*l.* was due from defendant to plaintiff, beyond the sum so paid. Rejoinder, that the sums were not so deducted, and traversing that 135*l.* was due beyond the sums paid.

Held (before the operation of rule of *Trin. 1 Vict.*, as to not pleading payments allowed in particulars of demand) that, assuming the declaration to be only for the balance of 106*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.* (but *semble* contra), and the defendant as pleading to that only (though the Court considered that the plea was really pleaded to more), yet the replication denied that the payments were applied to that balance, and the rejoinder took issue thereon; and therefore plaintiff might prove that the payments applied to debts independent of the balance, and left the balance still due. *Ferguson v. Mahon*, 245.

3. Plea of, to all the sums mentioned in a declaration which admits a part payment, how applied.

Assumpsit, stating that defendant owed plaintiff 883*l.* for goods sold and delivered; but that, although he has paid 664*l.*, the residue is unpaid. The particular of demand claimed a balance of 219*l.*

Plea, payment to the amount of all the monies mentioned in the declaration. Replication, new assigning, as to so much of the plea as relates to 175*l.*, parcel

parcel of the monies in the declaration mentioned, that the action is brought, not for a part of the causes of action mentioned in the plea, to the amount of 175*l.*, in respect of which defendants paid plaintiffs a part of the sums in that plea mentioned, viz. 175*l.*, but for breach of a promise to pay plaintiffs another and a different sum, viz. 175*l.*, part of the monies in the first count mentioned, and in which defendant was indebted to plaintiff as there mentioned, for goods sold and delivered between June 1st, 1836, and December 20th, 1837; which promise was made as in the declaration mentioned, and is different from the promise to pay the 175*l.* so paid to plaintiffs, and the causes of action in respect thereof. And, as to the residue of the causes of action in the declaration mentioned, that defendant did not pay the residue of the sums &c.

Rejoinder. 1. Payment of all the monies claimed by the new assignment. Traverse, and issue thereon. 2. That the promise mentioned in the declaration, as to 175*l.*, is not a different cause of action from the promise to pay 175*l.* so paid to plaintiffs, and the causes of action in respect thereof. Issue thereon.

On the trial, plaintiffs proved, among other demands (not available in this action), goods supplied to the amount of 370*l.*, and payments to the amount of 512*l.*, leaving a balance not in point of fact covered by the payment of 175*l.* admitted in the replication. Verdict for plaintiff, 58*l.*

Motion for a nonsuit, on the ground that the declaration claimed only a balance of 219*l.*; that the first plea related to that only; that the replication admitted a payment of 175*l.*; that the plaintiff's claim, therefore, on the record, was only for the difference between that sum and 219*l.*; and that defendants had proved payment of 312*l.*

Held, that plaintiff was entitled to recover. For,

(1.) That the plea of payment was not confined to the balance.

(2.) That the admission, in the new assignment, of 175*l.* having been paid, was not an admission of payment in respect of the balance of 219*l.*, but was, by the language of the new as-

Vol. IX.

signment, a virtual allegation that the 175*l.* was part of the 664*l.*, admitted in the declaration to have been paid. *Alston v. Mills*, 248.

4. Of payments allowed in particulars of demand, 245. 248. *Antè*, 2, 3.

5. Conclusion to plea of, 809. *Landlord and Tenant*, XVII. 1.

6. Replication and issue on the balance to which the payments were applied, 245. *Antè*, 2.

PEACE.

Justice of the. *Justice*.

PENAL ACTION.

p. 468. *Justice*, I.

PENALTIES.

Who may sue for, under by-law, 356. *Corporation*, III.

PENDENTE LITE.

Lis pendens. *Statute*, XXXV. 1.

PERPETUAL CURATE.

Curate.

PLEA.

I. Separate pleas, when required, 457. *Post*, VII.

II. Commencement.

Answer as to part only, 499. *Post*, IV. 2. 861. *Trover*, I.

III. Conclusion "et sic," 809. *Landlord and Tenant*, XVII. 1.

IV. General properties.

1. Need not meet an objection that must be replied or new assigned, 861. *Trover*, I.

2. Bad as tendering an immaterial issue.

Where defendant in an action of debt pleads, 1. As to all but a parcel of the sum claimed, that he never was indebted: 2. As to such parcel, that defendant was indebted in no more, and that the same was recoverable in a court of requests having exclusive jurisdiction. *Semble*, that such second plea may commence as an answer to part only of the declaration, and need not be pleaded to the whole.

3 Z

Where

Where such court of requests has exclusive jurisdiction of debts up to a certain amount, the plea must state in terms that defendant was not indebted beyond that amount. It is not sufficient to allege that he was not indebted in beyond a smaller sum, which is specified :

For a plea must be shaped so that the averments, if traversed, will be material and conclusive whether found for plaintiff or defendant; and this averment would not be so, if found for the plaintiff. *Burroughs v. Hodgson*, 499.

V. To what pleaded, 245. 248. *Payment*, V. 2, 3.

VI. General issue.

1. Defence not available under, 926. *Interlineation*, I.

2. What does not amount to the, 861. *Trover*, I.

VII. In Justification.

How to be restricted.

In an action of trespass for breaking and entering the plaintiff's house and taking his goods, a special plea, justifying an entry to seize goods fraudulently removed by the defendant's tenant, should be confined to the breaking and entry; and the property in the goods should be traversed in a separate plea.

Quære, whether, in trespass *de bonis &c.*, a special plea, shewing property in another, gives sufficient implied colour to the plaintiff, if it distinctly admits his possession? *Fletcher v. Marillier*, 457.

VIII. Construed according to the meaning of words at the time of pleading, 406. *Custom*, IV. 1.

IX. Puis darrein continuance, 505. *Costs*, III.

X. What set out in paper book, 499. n.

XI. Particular pleas.

1. Bankruptcy of plaintiff, 292. *Bond*, I. 1.

2. Bonâ fide purchase two months before bankruptcy, 303. *Pleading*, XXIV. 1.

3. Custom for victuallers to set up booths at a fair, 406. *Custom*, IV. 1.

4. Distress damage-feasant, 861. *Trover*, I.

5. Eviction, 809. *Landlord and Tenant*, XVII. 1.

6. Discharge of feme covert under the Insolvent Debtors' Act, 868. *Insolvent*, II.

7. Second judgment recovered against third party, 288. *Sheriff*, III.

8. Judgment recovered, when no estoppel, 508. *Vendor*, I. 1.

9. Lis pendens, when no plea in case for second arrest, 268. *Arrest*, II.

10. Nil habuit in tenementis, 809. *Landlord and Tenant*, XVII. 1.

11. That supposed libel was published under order of the House of Commons, 1. 164. 204. *Parliament*, I. 1.

12. Payment, 245. 248. *Payment*, V. 2, 3.

13. Payment by party primarily liable, 275. *Bills*, III.

14. Payment of rent to mortgagee, 809. *Landlord and Tenant*, XVII. 1.

15. Re-entry after an illegal lease, 857. *Landlord and Tenant*, I. 7.

16. Release to party jointly liable, 854. *Bills*, VII. 1.

17. Remittance to plaintiff's credit, 607. *Agent*, III. 2.

18. Riens in arriere, 809. *Landlord and Tenant*, XVII. 1.

19. *Westminster Court of Requests Act*, 499. *Antic*, IV. 2.

PLEADING.

I. Confession and avoidance.

1. When complete, 303. *Post*, XXIV. 1.

2. What not a confession of property, 457. *Plea*, VII.

3. What confesses a conversion, 861. *Trover*, I.

4. Interlineation must be so pleaded, 926. *Interlineation*, I.

II. Admission on the pleadings, generally. *Evidence*, IX.

III. Admission by pleading over or demurring.

1. Malice, 268. *Arrest*, II.

2. Intent of words, 286. n. *Slander*, II.

3. Title

3. Title of assignees, 303. *Post*, XXIV. 1.

IV. Duplicity.

1. By traversing after a complete confession and avoidance, 303. *Post*, XXIV. 1.
2. By denying two material allegations, 854. *Bills*, VII. 1.

V. Answer to the whole.

A pleading need not meet what must be replied on the other side, 861. *Trover*, I.

VI. General pleading.

Malice, 268. *Arrest*, II.

VII. Argumentativeness.

1. p. 275. *Bills*, III.
2. Denial of property, 457. *Plea*, VII.
3. When cured by conclusion "et sic," 809. *Landlord and Tenant*, XVII. 1.
4. What not an argumentative denial of plaintiff's possession, 861. *Trover*, I.

VIII. Positiveness, 809. *Landlord and Tenant*, XVII. 1.

IX. Evidence.

p. 275. *Bills*, III. 840. *Misnomer*, I.

X. Departure.

Whether by replication of new promise to plea of release of a party jointly liable, 854. *Bills*, VII. 1.

XI. Inconsistency, 303. *Post*, XXIV. 1.

XII. Colour.

Whether implied by admitting possession, 457. *Plea*, VII.

XIII. Pleadings must shew jurisdiction, 499. *Plea*, IV. 2.

XIV. Allegations necessary to shew defendant's act to be wrongful.

1. Second arrest, 268. *Arrest*, II.
2. Prefatory averments to shew words to be libellous or slanderous, 282. *Libel*, IV. 286. n. *Slander*, II.

XV. Notice.

Allegation of, when not equivalent to allegation of request, 298. *Guarantee*, II.

XVI. Scierter.

Malice, 268. *Arrest*, II. 840. *Misnomer*, I.

XVII. Request. *Request*.

XVIII. Profert. *Profert*.

XIX. Inducement.

1. Profert not required, 292. *Bond*, I. 1.
2. To special traverse, 303. *Post*, XXIV. 1.

XX. Amount.

Must be alleged so that if traversed it will be material if found for either party, 499. *Plea*, IV. 2.

XXI. Materiality.

1. Plea bad as tending to an immaterial issue, 499. *Plea*, IV. 2.
2. Traverse of allegation that a former defendant was as well known by one name as another, 840. *Misnomer*, I.
3. Immaterial traverse, 303. *Post*, XXIV. 1.

XXII. Traversable allegation.

Not mere conclusion of law, 292. *Bond*, I. 1.

XXIII. What must be traversed.

1. Property in goods, when, 457. *Plea*, VII.
2. Not superfluous allegations, 840. *Misnomer*, I.

XXIV. Special traverse.

1. The inducement must not contain a complete confession and avoidance.

Trover by assignee of bankrupt for goods of the plaintiff as assignee, laying a conversion by three defendants, *G.*, *R.*, and *P.*

Plea by defendants *R.* and *P.*, that after the bankruptcy, and two calendar months before the fiat, the plaintiff, as assignee, to wit, by the relation of his title to the act of bankruptcy, though not then appointed assignee, was owner, and entitled to the possession, of the goods, and the bankrupt was possessed of them subject to such title of the plaintiff; that two calendar months before the fiat, the defendant *R.* bonâ fide bought of the bankrupt, who then bonâ fide sold and delivered to *R.*, the said goods at a reasonable price, and that, at the time of the sale, neither of the defendants had notice of any prior act of bankruptcy; whereby *R.* became possessed of the goods as of his own property, and that he, being so

possessed, and *P.*, as his servant, converted them; which is the same grievance &c., *without this*, that at the time of the said conversion the goods were the property of the plaintiff as assignee. Conclusion to the country.

Held, on special demurrer to the plea, that the introductory part of it confessed and avoided the declaration, and the traverse was therefore idle.

Quære, whether the plaintiff might have treated the traverse as immaterial, and pleaded over? *Pearson v. Rogers*, 303.

2. Pleading over to inducement, 303. *Anté*, 1.

XXV. Commencement, 499. *Plea*, IV. 2. 861. *Trover*.

XXVI. Conclusion. *Conclusion*.

XXVII. Declaration. *Declaration*.

XXVIII. Plea. *Plea*.

XXIX. New assignment. *New Assignment*.

XXX. Replication. *Replication*.

XXXI. Demurrer. *Demurrer*.

XXXII. In particular cases.

1. See *Plea*, XI.
2. Application of payments, 245. 248. *Payment*, V. 2, 3.
3. By indorsee against one of several makers of a note after release to another of them, 854. *Bills*, VII. 1.
4. After payment of rent to mortgagee, 809. *Landlord and Tenant*, XVII. 1.
5. On guarantee. *Guarantee*.
6. In debt on bond by bankrupt obligee for the benefit of creditor claiming under an assignment before the bankruptcy, 292. *Bond*, I. 1.
7. In case for second arrest, 268. *Arrest*, II.
8. Libel and slander; innuendo, 282. *Libel*, IV. 286. n. *Slander*, II.
9. In case for false return, 288. *Sheriff*, III.
10. In action against sheriff for taking insufficient bail on arrest by wrong name, 840. *Misnomer*, I.
11. Trespass for seizing goods after fraudulent removal, 457. *Plea*, VII.

PLEADING (CRIMINAL).

p. 686. *Conspiracy*.

PLEADING OVER.

Pleading, III.

POOR.

I. Poor law commissioners.

1. Power to direct guardians to appoint collector of poor rates.

Where the poor law commissioners, by order under stat. 4 & 5 W. 4. c. 76. s. 26., form several parishes into a union, but the parishes are not united for the purpose of rating, and one of the parishes, before the issuing of such order, has been governed by a local act, which directed that the vestrymen of such parish should assess and lay the poor rates, and appoint a collector.

Held, that the poor law commissioners cannot, by order made under stat. 4 & 5 W. 4. c. 76. s. 46., direct the guardians to appoint a collector of poor rates for such parish. *Regina v. Poor Law Commissioners*, 901.

2. Where the poor law commissioners, by order under stat. 4 & 5 W. 4. s. 26., form several parishes into a union, but not for the purpose of rating, they cannot, by order under sect. 46, appoint a collector of poor rates for any parish or parishes of such union. *Regina v. Poor Law Commissioners*, 911.

3. Certiorari to bring their orders up, 901. 911. *Anté*, 1, 2.

II. Unions.

When imperfect, 901. 911. *Anté*, I. 1, 2.

III. Government under local acts. See 901. *Anté*, I. 1.

IV. Parish property.

1. Distinction between trusts for the poor generally, and trusts partially in aid of the parish funds, 255. *Statute*, XXIII.
2. In whom vested, 255. *Statute*, XXIII.

V. Parish officer.

1. Incompetency of overseer, 714. *Post*, XIV.

2. Col-

2. Collector of rates, 901. 911. *Antd*, I. 1, 2.

3. Assistant overseer, 911. *Antd*, I. 2.

VI. Poor rate generally.

1. Union for purposes of, 901. 911. *Antd*, I. 1, 2.

2. Time of making, &c., 626. *Post*, XI. 1.

VII. Persons and property rateable.

1. Property held for public purposes.

Where a municipal corporation had been rateable and rated to the relief of the poor, in respect of town and anchorage dues, before stat. 5 & 6 W. 4. c. 76. (for the Regulation of Municipal Corporations):

Held, that sect. 92 of that act, by appropriating all the corporate funds to purposes of a public nature, exempted the above dues from further rateability. *Regina v. Liverpool, Mayor, &c.*, 455.

2. Where persons have a private interest.

A company, incorporated by stat. (57 G. 3. c. lviii.), for rebuilding a public bridge, was enabled to raise a capital stock by shares, with the usual powers of mortgaging tolls, &c. The dividends were limited to $\frac{7}{8}$ per cent. on the shares; and the excess was to be applied to paying off the subscribed capital, and to raising a fund for discharging mortgage debts, &c., and repairing the bridge; after which the tolls were to cease. The tolls were in fact absorbed by the payment of interest to mortgagees, the liquidation of debts, and the expense of repairs, leaving nothing for the payment of any interest or dividend to the shareholders. Held, that the company was rateable to the relief of the poor in respect of the bridge and the land occupied by it. *Regina v. Blackfriars Bridge Company*, 828.

3. Interest that of commoners only.

By immemorial user, and grants of various dates by the lords of the soil to the corporation of A., the freemen of A. and their widows were entitled to have common of pasture and turbarry in A. moor, paying a fixed rent, and to cut peat, furzes, and brushwood, with liberty to get limestone,

slate, and freestone, to dig clay, burn bricks, take flags, whins, and wattles, to dig and take sand, gravel, and marl for the use of the freemen in certain parts of the moor, and to erect limekilns and herds' houses where the lord's bailiff and the corporation should think fit. The corporation made by-laws to regulate the stints, appointed moor grieves to enforce them by distress &c., and persons to hoe and burn whins, gather stones, and drain and sow grass. The lord of the soil had a right to grant licenses to make bricks, get clay, make washpools, and win ironstone, coals, and limestone, but not to grant the herbage of the moor; nor did he depasture cattle there: Held, that the interest of the freemen was substantially that of commoners only, and that the corporation was not rateable to the poor in respect thereof. *Regina v. Anwick, Chamberlains, &c.*, 444.

4. Saleable underwood.

A wood, consisting of oak growing from old stools, with a few ash, alder, and beech trees, had not been felled for fifty years until three years before it was rated. During the last three years the owner had annually cut the worst shoots, selling the poles by the dozen for colliery purposes and firewood, and the bark by the ton. The wood was also occasionally waste-weeded to improve the plantation. The sessions found that the wood was not saleable underwood within stat. 43 Eliz. c. 2., and the Court of Q. B. confirmed the order.

Whether woods be saleable underwoods within the statute, is a question of fact, and the Court of Q. B. will confirm the finding of the sessions upon it, unless it be evidently wrong. *Regina v. Narberth North*, 815.

5. How far dependent on mode of management, 815. *Antd*, 4.

6. Rateable occupation, 444. *Antd*, 3.

VIII. Appeal against rate.

Finding of sessions when conclusive, 815. *Antd*, VI. 4.

IX. Removeability of poor.

Separation of husband and wife.

Where a debtor is imprisoned in the county gaol in execution under a Court of Requests act, (which autho-

risks such imprisonment for a limited time), and his wife resides in the parish where the gaol is situate, and has occasional access to him under the prison regulations, she cannot, if chargeable, be removed from the parish; for the principle, that husband and wife shall not be separated by an order of removal, applies, notwithstanding such imprisonment of the husband. *Regina v. Stogumber*, 622.

X. Settlement by apprenticeship.

Residence in different parish.

A pauper, apprenticed to a carpenter in parish *B.*, being disabled by an accident from working in his business, was taken by his master to his (the apprentice's) father's house in parish *M.*, for the benefit of surgical attendance. He resided there forty days, and during such residence was employed by his master to sell tickets in a lottery, in which the prizes were articles manufactured by the master, and was allowed by him 1s. on each ticket sold, in aid of his maintenance: Held, that he gained a settlement in *M.*, although the sale of such tickets was illegal. *Regina v. Somerby*, 310.

XI. Settlement by payment of rates.

1. Since 4 & 5 W. 4.

Since the passing of stat. 4 & 5 W. 4. c. 76. s. 66., a person cannot gain a settlement by renting and occupying a tenement, unless he has been assessed to and paid the poor rate in respect thereof for a year. But he may gain a settlement by payment of rates under stat. 3 & 4 W. 6. M. c. 11. s. 6., if he has been assessed to and paid poor rate for part of the year only, provided his renting and occupation have been such as to satisfy stat. 6 G. 4. c. 57. s. 2.

Pauper took a house at a yearly rent, payable quarterly, the tenancy to be determinable at any time, on a quarter's notice. At the end of the first quarter he paid the rent, but said it was too high, and that he should quit. The landlady said that, if he would remain, she would take off 10s. per quarter, which was agreed to, and the agreement acted upon. Pauper remained to the end of the year. Held, an occupation for a year under the original yearly hiring.

Ten days before the end of the year, pauper quitted the premises with his family, locked up the house, leaving only some few of his things in it, and went into another house. He likewise offered the key to his landlady, but she refused to accept it till the end of the year, when he gave it up to her and paid the full rent. Held, a sufficient occupation by the pauper for a year, under stat. 6 G. 4. c. 57. s. 2.

Where payment of rates for a whole year is material, it is no excuse for non-payment of the last rate, that such rate, though made during the year, was not published till after its expiration. *Regina v. St. Mary Kalendar*, 626.

2. What occupation sufficient, 626. *Antè*, 1.

3. What rates, 626. *Antè*, 1.

XII. Settlement by renting a tenement.

1. Since 4 & 5 W. 4. c. 76., 626. *Antè*, X. 1.

2. What occupation sufficient, 626. *Antè*, X. 1.

3. Separate and distinct, 670. *Statute*, XXXIV. 1.

4. Underletting, 670. *Statute*, XXXIV. 1.

5. Occupation ancillary to service, or incidental.

Pauper, whose children were engaged to work for three years at a mill, removed with his family to a cottage rented by the mill owner, *C.*, for the convenience of families so employed. The bargain between him and *C.* was, that a stated weekly payment for the use of the cottage should be deducted from the children's wages. Pauper, who was not himself in the service of *C.*, continued to occupy the cottage for sixteen years, during all which time, and after he quitted it, some one or more of his children continued to work at the mill. He quitted without regular notice, in consequence of the sale of the cottage.

Held, that pauper's occupation was as tenant, and not as servant, and was sufficient to gain a settlement. *Regina v. Bishopton*, 824.

XIII. Copy of the examination.

Under sect. 79 of stat. 4 & 5 W. 4. c. 76., copies of all the examinations touching

touching the settlement of a pauper, taken by the justices upon making an order of removal, must be sent with the copy of the order; and the omission of any one examination is ground of appeal, although it may not contain the evidence upon which the order was in fact founded. *Regina v. Outwell*, 836.

XIV. Grounds of appeal.

All the examinations not sent, 836. *Ante*, XII.

XV. Hearing of appeal. Evidence.

Incompetency of overseers.

An overseer is not competent, by stat. 54 G. 3. c. 170. s. 9., or otherwise, to give evidence for his parish on the trial of an appeal against an order of removal; whether the evidence be tendered on the merits, or on a preliminary point, as service of notice. *Regina v. Bath, Recorder*, 714.

XVI. Finding of sessions.

When not conclusive, 444. 453. *Ante*, VI. 3.

XVII. Order of filiation.

1. What necessary to shew jurisdiction.

An order for maintenance of a bastard under stat. 4 & 5 W. 4. c. 76. s. 72. is bad, if it allege that the sessions heard evidence in corroboration of the mother's statement, without adding that the corroboration was in some material particular. *Regina v. Read*, 619.

2. Mandamus to commit putative father under old law.

When an order has been made on a putative father for the payment of a sum named so long as the bastard is chargeable, a magistrate, under stat. 49 G. 3. c. 68. s. 3., is bound to enforce the order by commitment, on proof that the sum is in arrear and the child chargeable; and he has no jurisdiction to inquire whether the sum is too large, or whether it is likely to be all applied to the maintenance of the child. *Regina v. Codd*, 692.

3. Application of payments, 682. *Ante*, 2.

POOR-RATE.

Poor, V. to VII.

POSITIVENESS.

In pleading, 809. *Landlord and Tenant*, XVII. 1.

POSSESSION.

I. When a sufficient title, 662. *Ejectment*, II.

II. Adverse, 662: *Ejectment*, II. :

III. Under illegal contract, 857. *Landlord and Tenant*, I. 7.

IV. By undertenant, 849. *Landlord and Tenant*, IX.

V. Tender of, 849. *Landlord and Tenant*, IX.

VI. Effect of admitting, 457. *Plea*, VII.

POSTPONEMENT.

Of vesting, 582. *Devise*, IV.

POWER.

I. Exercise.

What the attestation must shew.

Lands were limited to such uses &c. as L. should appoint by her last will and testament in writing, to be by her signed, sealed, and published, in the presence of, and attested by, three or more credible witnesses. L. signed and sealed an instrument (before stat. 7 W. 4. and 1 Vict. c. 26.) containing an appointment, commencing thus:—"I, L., do publish and declare this to be my last will and testament;" and ending thus:—"I declare this only to be my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have to this my last will and testament set my hand and seal, the 12th day &c." The attestation was as follows:—"Witness C. B., E. B., A. B."

Held, by the Court of Exchequer Chamber, reversing the judgment of the Court of Q. B., not a good execution of the power.

Per Vaughan J., Parke B., Alderson B., and Colman J. Dissentientibus Tindal C. J., Bosanquet J., and Gurney B. *Doe dem. Spilbury v. Burdett*, 936.

II. Of arbitrator, 576. *Arbitration*, IX. 1.

PRACTICE.

FIRST, on the plea side.

I. Puis darrein continuance, 505. *Costs*, III.

II. On demurrer.

Paper books, 499. n.

III. Elegit : forms, 986. *Reg. Gen.*

IV. Fieri facias : forms, 994. *Reg. Gen.*

V. Sittings in vacation, 244.

VI. In Exchequer Chamber. *Exchequer Chamber*.

SECONDLY, on the crown side.

VII. Certiorari. *Certiorari*.

VIII. Mandamus. *Mandamus*.

IX. Criminal information. *Criminal Information*.

X. Habeas corpus. *Habeas corpus*.

XI. Costs not given against one not a party to the rule, 704. *Trespass*, IV. 1.

PRESCRIPTION.

Or custom, 406. *Custom*, IV. 1.

PRESUMPTION.

I. That the writ was pursuant to the judgment, 468. *Justice*, I.

II. That power was properly exercised, 936. *Power*, I.

III. That the crown has taken proper steps, 731. *Habeas corpus*, I.

IV. Against appointment by lot, 699. *Arbitration*, III.

PRINCIPAL AND AGENT.

Agent.

PRINCIPAL AND SURETY.

Surety.

PRISONER.

Remedy for malicious arrest, 268. *Arrest*, II.

PRIVILEGE.

Of parliament, 1. *Parliament*, I.

PRIVITY.

I. Effect of, in ejectment, 662. *Ejectment*, II.

II. Of sheriff to return made by bailiff, 288. *Sheriff*, III.

PROCEEDINGS.

Of the House of Commons, 1. *Parliament*.

PROCESS.

I. Action for abuse of, 268. *Arrest*, II.

II. In execution.

Form of writs, 986. *Reg. Gen.*

PROFERT.

I. Not required of a deed to the possession of which the party on the record is not entitled, 292. *Bond*, I. 1.

II. Not required of mere inducement, 292. *Bond*, I. 1.

PROFIT.

What such as to render a public work rateable, 828. *Poor*, VI. 2.

PROMISE.

Agreement. Assumpsit. Contract.

PROMISSORY NOTE.

Bills of Exchange.

PROMOTION.

Erskine J., 434.

PROOF.

Evidence.

PROPERTY.

In goods.

I. Vesting of, by symbolical delivery, 895. *Vendor*, II. 5.

II. When to be traversed, 457. *Plea*, VII.

III. Colour, 457. *Plea*, VII.

PROSECUTOR.

Certiorari by, without recognizance, 485. *Certiorari*, III.

PROVISO.

PROVISO.

Suspending collection of county rate, 540. *Certiorari*, II. 1.

PUBLIC PURPOSES.

p. 828. *Poor*, VI. 2.

PUBLICATION.

Of parliamentary proceedings, 1. *Parliament*.

PUIS DARREIN CONTINUANCE.

p. 505. *Costs*, III.

PUNISHMENT.

I. Commutation of, 731. 784. *Habeas corpus*, I.

II. Of transportation, 731. 784. *Habeas corpus*, I.

PUTATIVE FATHER.

Poor, XVI.

QUALIFICATION.

I. Of justice, 468. *Justice*, I.

II. Of Burgess, 670. *Statute*, XXXIV. 1.

QUANTITY.

Ascertainment of, 895. *Vendor*, II. 5.

QUARTER SESSIONS.

Sessions.

QUEEN ANNE'S BOUNTY.

p. 556. *Curate*, III.

QUEEN'S BENCH.

How far it may entertain questions of parliamentary privilege, 1. *Parliament*.

QUO WARRANTO.

Stay of proceedings under 7 W. 4. and 1 Vict. c. 78. s. 20.

Notwithstanding offer by defendant to pay all costs, 660. *Statute*, XXXV. 1.

RATE.

I. County-rate.

1. *Certiorari*, when refused, 540. *Certiorari*, II. 1.

2. Proper mode of quashing, 540. *Certiorari*, II. 1.

3. Protection of collectors, 540. *Certiorari*, II. 1.

4. *Middlesex* county-rate, 540. *Certiorari*, II. 1.

II. Poor-rate. *Poor*.

III. Highway, 820. *Highway*.

IV. Settlement by payment of rates, 626. *Poor*, X. 1.

RECEIPT.

Effect in evidence.

In an action brought by partners to recover a debt, if the defendant, to prove payment, gives in evidence a receipt signed by one of the plaintiffs, they are not concluded, but may shew that it was given under circumstances which destroy its effect, as fraud on the partners, not signing. *Farrar v. Hutchinson*, 641.

RECOGNISANCE.

When not necessary on removal by *certiorari*, 485. *Certiorari*, III.

RE-EXAMINATION.

Of attorneys, 728. *Attorney*, I. 1.

REFEREE.

Notice to stakeholder of his decision, 536. *Stakeholder*, I.

REFERENCE.

Arbitration.

REGULÆ GENERALES.

Rules of Court.

REISSUE.

Of notes, 275. *Bills*, III.

RELATION.

RELATION.

- I. Not of attornment to mortgagor to notice of the mortgage, 342. *Mortgage*, II. 1.
- II. To act of bankruptcy, 303. *Pleading*, XXIV. 1.

RELATOR.

p. 680. *Statute*, XXXV. 1.

RELEASE.

- I. To one of several makers of a promissory note, effect of, 854. *Bills*, VII. 1.
- II. Parol exception, 854. *Bills*, VII. i.
- III. By one member of a joint-stock banking company, 854. *Bills*, VII. 1.

REMAINDER.

Not bad for remoteness, 582. *Devise*, IV.

REMEDY.

Though the document complained of has ceased to operate, 670. *Statute*, XXXIV. 1.

REMITTANCE.

To credit according to order, 607. *Agent*, III. 2.

REMOVAL.

- I. Fraudulent, 457. *Plea*, VII.
- II. Of poor. *Poor*.

REMOTENESS.

Of devise, 582. *Devise*, IV.

RENT.

Landlord and Tenant, XI.

RENTING A TENEMENT.

Poor, XI.

REPEAL.

Effect on appointments not renewed, 654. *Game*.

REPLEVIN.

- I. Between lessee of mortgagor and mortgagee, 342. *Mortgage*, II. 1.
- II. Pleading.
Plea of payment to mortgagee, 809. *Landlord and Tenant*, XVII. 1.

REPLICATION.

- I. Denying the application of payments to a particular balance, 245. *Payment*, V. 2.
- II. New promise, 854. *Bills*, VII. 1.
- III. Assignment of bond before bankruptcy, 292. *Bond*, I. 1.
- IV. Abuse of distress, 861. *Trover*, I.
- V. Non pros. for want of, 505. *Costs*, III.

REQUEST.

When necessary in pleading on a guarantee, 298. *Guarantee*, II.

REQUESTS.

Court of, 499. *Plea*, IV. 2.

RESIDENCE.

- I. Of apprentice, 510. *Poor*, IX.
- II. Of vicar, 468. *Justice*, I.

RESOLUTION.

Of the House of Commons, 1. *Parliament*.

RETURN.

- I. *Sheriff*.
- II. To habeas corpus ad subjiciendum, 731. *Habeas corpus*, I.

REVERSIONER.

Entry by, after expiration of term, 879. *Devise*, III. 1.

REVOCATION.

Of authority, appropriation or assignment, by bankruptcy, 375. *Bankrupt*, I. 1.

RIENS IN ARRERE.

p. 809. *Landlord and Tenant*, XVII. 1.

RIGHT.

RIGHT.

RIGHT.

- I. Bonâ fide supposition of, 654. *Game.*
- II. Bonâ fide claim of, 704. *Trespass*, IV. 1.

RIGHTS (BILL OF).

pp. 184. 201. *Parliament.*

ROAD.

Highway.

RULE.

Party to, 704. *Trespass*, IV. 1.

RULES OF COURT (GENERAL).

- I. *Hil.* 8 & 9 G. 4. Demurrer book, 499. n.
- II. *Hil.* 4 W. 4. *General Rules and Regulations.*
 1. Sects. 10. 13. Special traverse, 303. *Pleading*, XXIV. 1.
 2. Sect. 21. Admissions by pleading, 503. *Pleading*, XXIV. 1.
- III. *Hil.* 4 W. 4. Defence in assumpsit, 926. *Interlineation*, I.
- IV. *Hil.* Vac. 4 W. 4. *Directions to taxing officers.*

Where less than 20*l.* recovered, 702. *Costs*, IV.
- V. *Hil.* 6 W. 4. s. 4. Examination of attorneys, 728. *Attorney*, I. 1.
- VI. *Trin.* 1 *Vict.* Payments allowed in particulars, 245. *Payment*, V. 2.
- VII. *Hil.* Vac. 2 *Vict.*

Forms of writs of *elegit* and *fieri facias*, 986.

SALE.

- I. *Vendor and purchaser.*
- II. Of parliamentary proceedings, 152. *Parliament.*

SAVINGS' BANK.

- I. Rule limiting time for claiming deposits.

The Court will not grant a mandamus requiring trustees of a savings' bank to refer a dispute to arbitration under stat. 9 G. 4. c. 92. s. 4*b.*, where

SET-OFF.

1043

it is clear that the inquiry could have no result.

As where, by a rule of the bank, no deposit can be claimed after the expiration of seven years from the death of the depositor, and a claim, which it is proposed to refer, was confessedly not made within that time. *Regina v. Northwich Savings' Bank, Trustees, &c.*, 729.

- II. Mandamus to refer when refused, 729. *Ante*, I.

SCIENTER.

In pleading. *Pleading*, XVI.

SEAL.

Of Insolvent Court, 554. *Evidence*, VII. 1.

SECURITY.

- I. What passes to assignees, 292. *Bond*, I. 1.
- II. See also, *Guarantee. Mortgage. Surety.*

SEPARATION.

Of husband and wife, 622. *Poor*, VIII.

SEQUESTRATION.

- I. Effect of as an incumbrance, 468. *Justice*, I.
- II. As to residence in parsonage house, 468. *Justice*, I.
- III. Assignment of stipend by bishop, 468. *Justice*, I.
- IV. Evidence of, 468. *Justice*, I.

SERVANT.

Master and Servant.

SESSIONS.

- I. Appeal against county rate, 540. *Certiorari*, II. 1.
- II. Order of, 619. *Poor*, XVI. 1.
- III. Conclusiveness of their finding, 815. *Poor*, VI. 4.
- IV. Mandamus to, 540. *Certiorari*, II. 1.

SET-OFF.

Award upon claim of, 522. *Arbitration*, X.

SET.

SETTLEMENT.

Of poor. *Poor.*

SHERIFF.

I. His county court, 288. *Post*, III.

II. Execution of writs by.

His option when defendant is misnamed, 840. *Munomer*, I.

III. His liabilities.

When not responsible for false return by bailiff.

No action lies against the sheriff for a false return of nulla bona by his bailiff to a writ of fi. fa. issued out of his county court, although it be alleged in the declaration that defendant had notice of the goods, and that the return was made with his privity and by his direction.

To an action for a false return to a writ of fi. fa. on a judgment in the Court of K. B., it is no plea that the plaintiff, after the return of the writ, brought an action of debt on the judgment, and obtained a second judgment thereon. *Pitcher v. King*, 288.

IV. Pleading.

Judgment recovered when no plea, 288. *Antè*, III.

V. Pleadings in action for taking insufficient bail, 840. *Munomer*, I.

SHIPPING.

I. Trans-shipment.

1. Whether a duty or a right.

(1.) Where goods are shipped under a bill of lading in a general ship, which is prevented from completing the voyage in consequence of damage occasioned by tempest, *quare*, whether the master is bound, if he has an opportunity, to forward the goods by some other conveyance to the place of destination.

(2.) At any rate, he is at liberty to do so, by a conveyance equally cheap, if he think fit; and, if the goods arrive at the place of destination by such other conveyance, he is entitled, on the freighter obtaining the goods, to the whole freight originally contracted for; though the freighter was named as consignee in the original bill of lading, and the bill of lading under which the goods are shipped by the

second conveyance makes another party consignee; and though, by the second conveyance, the goods are carried for less than the freight originally contracted for.

(3.) Defendant was interested solely in certain goods conveyed by the ship *S.*, and was also interested jointly with his partners, who with him formed the firm of *T. and W.*, in other goods also sent by the ship *S.* He signed a promise to make certain payments in respect of freight on board the *S.*, not stating upon which goods, beginning, "I hereby engage to pay," but signed with the style of *T. and W.* In an action against him solely, for the freight of his own goods: Held, that such engagement was evidence of a several contract by him, and, for the purpose of the action, required only one stamp.

(4.) A witness called by plaintiff stated, on the voir dire, that he had, as agent for plaintiff, instructed an attorney, *E.*, to commence the suit: that *E.* had carried on the suit to a certain stage, and had died; that witness had not told *E.* that he was to look to plaintiff only for costs; that no demand of costs had been made upon himself; and that he had not been released. It did not appear under what circumstances the papers had been handed over to the present attorney, nor whether the costs of *E.* had been discharged. Held, that these facts did not shew an interest sufficient to disqualify the witness. *Shipton v. Thornton*, 314.

2. General ship, 314. *Antè*, 1.

3. Claim for freight after, 314. *Antè*, 1.

II. Master.

His double capacity, 314. 337. *Antè*, I. 1.

III. Freight.

1. After trans-shipment, 314. *Antè*, I. 1.

2. Increase when an average loss, 314. 337. *Antè*, I. 1.

3. Promise to pay, when part is due from defendant and his partners, 314. *Antè*, I. 1.

SIGNATURE.

I. By individual partner in name of firm, 314. *Shipping*, I. 1.

II. Fraud-

II. Fraudulent, 641. *Receipt.*

III. In exercise of power, 936. *Power, I.*

SLANDER.

I. What not slanderous per se, 286. n. *Post, II.*

II. Pleading.

Effect of the innuendo.

Declaration for slander stated that, at the time of the speaking &c., plaintiff worked for and was employed by one *B. Glass* in his barn, in and about thrashing *Glass's* corn, and that defendant, intending to cause it to be believed that plaintiff had been guilty of felony, falsely and maliciously spoke of and concerning plaintiff the words, "I saw *J. G.* coming across Mr. *Glass's* barton with some barley, and my son said, 'What art going to do with that?' *J. G.* said he was going to feed pheasants with it, and said, where he had that he could have more, and that he had it at farmer *Glass's* barn" (meaning the said barn belonging to the said *B. Glass*, wherein the plaintiff was so at work and employed as aforesaid, and that the barley so alleged by defendant to have been in the possession of *J. G.* was the property of the said *B. Glass*, and that plaintiff had stolen the same from the said *B. Glass*, and given the same to the said *J. G.*). Averment of special damage.

Held bad, the innuendo not being borne out by the other parts of the count. And that a demurrer to such count did not imply any admission by which the defect could be aided. *Wheeler v. Haynes*, 286. n.

III. See also *Libel*.

SOLICITOR.

Attorney.

SPORTING.

Game.

STAKEHOLDER.

I. Action against, when premature.

Plaintiffs agreed with *G.* to pay him 25*l.* if he performed certain work to the satisfaction of a referee, and that a cheque for the 25*l.* should be deposited

with defendant, to be handed to *G.* if the work succeeded; if not, to be returned to the plaintiffs. The check was so deposited; and defendant presented and obtained cash for it. Afterwards the referee disapproved of the work; but no decision by him was communicated to defendant.

Held, that the action was brought prematurely in respect of the alleged failure of the experiment: and that the turning of the check into money by defendant was not a breach of his duty, as stakeholder, which entitled the plaintiffs to recover back the 25*l.* from him as money received to their use; it not appearing by the evidence that the parties had contemplated any distinction between a check and money. *Wilkinson v. Godefroy*, 536.

II. When entitled to notice, 536. *Ante, I.*

III. Conversion of cheque into money by, 536. *Ante, I.*

STAMP.

I. Liability generally.

Must be decided by the instrument when it is first issued, 575. *Bankrupt, I. 1.*

II. On document operating as two agreements, 314. *Shipping, I. 1.*

III. Objection to, when to be taken, 644. *Landlord and Tenant, I. 5.*

IV. Inland bill.

Bill stamp when required or not under 55 *G. 3. c. 184. sched. part 1.*, as the order is or is not delivered to the payee, and the sum payable is or is not ascertained, 375. *Bankrupt, I. 1.*

STATUTE.

FIRST: Generally.

I. Construction. *Construction, I.*

II. Bonâ fide supposition of acting under, 654. *Game.*

III. Incorporation of provisions by reference, effect of, 871. *Post, XXXIV. 2.*

IV. Words of statute ought to be followed, 619. *Poor, XVI. 1.*

SECONDLY: Decisions on public and general statutes.

V. 32 *H. 8. c. 16.* (*Leases to alien artificers*),

tifiers), 857. *Landlord and Tenant*, I. 7.

VI. 32 *H. 8. c. 28.* (Leases.)

Secs. 1. 4. Whether a perpetual curate is within these enactments, 556. *Curate*, III.

VII. 43 *Eliz. c. 2.* (Poor.)

See title *Poor passim*.

VIII. 21 *Jac. 1. c. 16.* (Limitations.)

On contracts to indemnify, 653. *Indemnity*, I.

IX. 18 & 14 *C. 2. c. 12.* (Poor.)

Sec. 1. Occupation as tenant, 824. *Poor*, XI. 5.

X. 22 & 23 *C. 2. c. 25.* (Game.)

Effect of repeal, 654. *Game*.

XI. 29 *C. 2. c. 5.* (Frauds.)

Sec. 4. Statement of consideration, 693. *Master and Servant*, I. 1.

XII. 1 *W. & M. Stat. 2. c. 2.* (Bill of Rights.)

Publication of parliamentary proceedings, 184, 201. *Parliament*.

XIII. 5 & 4 *W. & M. c. 11.* (Poor.)

Sec. 6. Settlement by payment of rates, 626. *Poor*, X. 1.

XIV. 1 *G. 1. Stat. 2. c. 10.* (Poor Clergy.)

Secs. 4. 21. Lands annexed to perpetual curacies, 556. *Curate*, III.

XV. 5 *G. 2. c. 19.* (Sessions.)

1. Sec. 2. Prosecutor may remove order without entering into recognisance, 485. *Certiorari*, III.

2. Sec. 7. Plea of fraudulent removal, 457. *Plea*, VII.

XVI. 12 *G. 2. c. 29.* (County Rates.)

Sec. 18. Protection of collectors, 540. *Certiorari*, II. 1.

XVII. 18 *G. 2. c. 20.* (Justices of the peace.)

Sec. 1. What is an incumbrance affecting the estate, 468. *Justice*, I.

XVIII. 31 *G. 3. c. 31.* (Province of Quebec.)

Conditional pardon, 731. *Habeas corpus*, I.

XIX. 42 *G. 3. c. 63.* (Postage.)

Sec. 10. Conveyance of parliament-

ary proceedings postage free, effect of, in questions of libel, 153, 162. *Parliament*.

XX. 49 *G. 3. c. 68.* (Bastardy.)

Sec. 3. Mandamus to commit putative father, 682. *Poor*, XVI. 2.

XXI. 55 *G. 3. c. 51.* (County rate.)

Sec. 14. Appeal against, 871. *Post*, XXXIV. 2.

XXII. 55 *G. 3. c. 184.* (Stamps.) *Stamp*.

XXIII. 59 *G. 3. c. 12.* (Poor.)

Sec. 17. What legal estate vested in parish officers.

Stat. 59 *G. 3. c. 12. s. 17.* does not vest the legal estate of charity lands in the parish officers, where there are known feoffees in existence, and where the trust funds are applicable only to certain specified objects partially in aid of the parish funds. Therefore, where lands were vested in trustees under a charitable bequest, on trust to apply half the rents towards the relief of poor people of good life and conversation in the parish, and half for apprenticing poor boys of the parish: Held, that the legal estate was not transferred to the parish officers under stat. 59 *G. 3. c. 12. s. 17.*, although, by a local act, a portion of the rents was applied to the expense of erecting the parish workhouse, and paying off monies borrowed for that purpose.

A dispute having arisen between trustees for the poor under a local act, and the trustees of certain charity lands, respecting the liability of the former to pay rent to the latter for a workhouse built on the charity land, an amicable suit was instituted in the Rolls Court, and an order obtained for payment of a certain rent in respect of the said land. The trustees for the poor acquiesced in the order, and paid rent accordingly for twelve years: Held, that they could not afterwards dispute their liability in an action for use and occupation. *Allason v. Stark*, 255.

XXIV. 5 *G. 4. c. 84.* (Transportation.)

Sec. 17. Conditional pardon, 731. *Habeas corpus*, I.

XXV. 6 *G. 4. c. 16.* (Bankrupts.)

1. Sec. 59. When not applicable, 505. *Costs*, III.

2. Sec.

2. Sec. 81. Pleading under, 503.
Pleading, XXIV. 1.

XXVI. 6 G. 4. c. 57. (Poor.)

Sec. 2. Occupation under, 626. *Poor*,
X. 1.

XXVII. 7 G. 4. c. 57. (Insolvent
debtors.)

1. Sec. 61. Plea by husband of wife's
discharge, 868. *Insolvent*, II.

2. Sec. 76. Seal of court, 554. *Evi-*
dence, VII. 1.

XXVIII. 7 & 8 G. 4. c. 30. (Malicious
injuries to property.)

1. Sec. 30. Damage to the amount of
a shilling, 704. *Trespass*, IV. 1.

2. Sec. 24. Damage to the amount of
less than a shilling, 704. *Trespass*,
IV. 1.

3. Sec. 24. *Bona fide* claim of right,
704. *Trespass*, IV. 1.

XXIX. 9 G. 4. c. 92. (Savings' banks.)

Sec. 45. Reference of disputes, 729.
Savings' Bank, I.

XXX. 11 G. 4. & 1 W. 4. c. 70. (Ad-
ministration of justice.)

Sec. 8. Error to Exchequer Chamber,
426. *Error*, I.

XXXI. 1 & 2 W. 4. c. 32. (Game.)

1. Sec. 5. Deputations, 654. *Game*.

2. Sec. 47. Notice of action, 654.
Game.

XXXII. 4 & 5 W. 4. c. 76. (Poor.)

1. Sec. 26. Formation of unions,
when imperfect, 901. *Poor*, I. 1.

2. Sec. 46. Power to direct appoint-
ment of collector of rates, 901, 911.
Poor, I. 1; 2.

3. Sec. 66. Settlement by renting a
tenement, 626. *Poor*, X. 1.

4. Sec. 72. Corroboration of mother,
619. *Poor*, XVI. 1.

5. Sec. 79. Copies of what examin-
ations to be sent, 836. *Poor*, XII.

XXXIII. 5 & 6 W. 4. c. 50. (High-
ways.)

Sec. 18. Power to form boards, 820.
Highway, I.

XXXIV. 5 & 6 W. 4. c. 76. (Municipal
corporations.)

1. Sec. 9. Occupation.

A householder is entitled to be on
the burgess list of a borough, under
stat. 5 & 6 W. 4. c. 76. s. 9., as an oc-
cupier, if he resides in his house, but
has let a room in the house to a ten-
ant, who does not sleep there, and
can be put out upon a week's warning.

And, where the mayor and assessors
had expunged the name of such a party
from the burgess roll, and the party in
the term next following obtained a
rule for a mandamus to the mayor to
insert his name, the Court made the
rule absolute, directing the mandamus
to the mayor generally, though the
mayor who expunged the name had
ceased to be mayor before the rule
nisi was obtained, and no application
had been made to the present mayor,
and though the year to which the list
belonged had expired before making
the rule absolute.

The mandamus to replace a name
on the list, grantable under stat. 7 W. 4.
& 1 Vict. c. 78. s. 24., is not peremp-
tory in the first instance.

The tenant and occupier of a house
underlet the cellar, which was beneath,
and had an internal communication
with the house. The under-tenant
used the cellar as a warehouse, and
was separately rated to the poor for
it. Held, that the tenant could not
qualify as a burgess under stat. 5 & 6
W. 4. c. 76. s. 9., for the house inde-
pendently of the cellar.

Two tenements, described as houses,
were under the same roof, and opened
upon a common passage and staircase.
There was no outer door opening to
the street. Held, that the rated occu-
pier of one such tenement was qual-
ified to be a burgess under stat. 5 & 6
W. 4. c. 76. s. 9. *Regina v. Eye*,
Mayor, &c., 670.

2. Sec. 92. Appeal against borough
rate.

Under stat. 5 & 6 W. 4. c. 76. s. 92.,
the appeal to quarter sessions against
a borough rate is given only in the
case of unequal apportionments of the
rate among the parishes subjected to
it, or the total omission of parishes
which ought to be so subjected. No
appeal is given to persons aggrieved as
individuals. *Regina v. Bath, Recorder*,
871.

3. Sec.

3. Sec. 92. Rateability of corporate property, 435. *Poor*, VI. 1.

XXXV. 7 *W. 4. & 1 Vict.* (Municipal corporations.)

1. Sec. 20. Stay of proceedings.

Quo warranto information for exercising a borough office. The ground of prosecution was, that the officers presiding at the election were not qualified. Defendant pleaded that he was duly elected. Pending the information, stat. 7 *W. 4. & 1 Vict. c. 78.* passed. Prosecutor thereupon moved for a stay of proceedings, and payment of costs (down to the passing of the act) by defendant, under sect. 20.

Rule absolute, although defendant suggested that he had a defence independent of the statute (not, however, specifying its nature), and offered to pay all costs of the trial if he failed in establishing such defence. *Regina v. Hooker*, 680.

2. Sec. 24. Mandamus, 670. *Ante*, XXXIV. 1.

XXXVI. 1 & 2 *Vict. c. 32.* (Sittings in Vacation), 244.

XXXVII. 1 & 2 *Vict. c. 110.* (Insolvent Debtors.)

Sec. 105. Seal of court, 554. *Evidence*, VII. 1.

THIRDLY: Local acts.

XXXVIII. *Hungerford Market*, 465. *Compensation*.

XXXIX. *Kensington poor. Camden charities*, 255. *Ante*, XXIII.

XL. *Middlesex county rate*, 540. *Certiorari*, II. 1.

XLI. *Salford bridge (Blackfriars)*, 828. *Poor*, VI. 2.

XLII. *St. Paul's, Covent Garden*, 901. *Poor*, I. 1.

XLIII. *Westminster Court of Requests*, 499. *Plca*, IV. 2.

FOURTHLY: Colonial acts.

XLIV. Of *Upper Canada*, 781. 785. *Habeas corpus*, I.

STATUTE OF FRAUDS.

Statute, XI.

STAY OF PROCEEDINGS.

In quo warranto, 680. *Statute*, XXXV. 1.

STOPPAGE IN TRANSITU.

When prevented by symbolical delivery, 895. *Vendor*, II. 5.

STRANGER.

I. When he may avail himself of invalidity of contract, 693. *Master and Servant*, I. 1.

II. To a corporation, 556. *Corporations*, III.

III. To rule, when not ordered to pay costs, 704. *Trespass*, IV. 1.

SUCCESSOR.

To perpetual curacy, when not bound, 556. *Curate*, III.

SUIT.

Amicable, 255. *Statute*, XXIII.

SUPPOSITION.

Of right, 654. *Game*. 704. *Trespass*, IV. 1.

SURETY.

I. Pleading in debt on bond against, 298. *Guarantee*, II.

II. Statute of Limitations, 653. *Indemnity*, I.

SURRENDER.

Acts not necessarily importing, 879. *Devise*, III. 1.

TENANT.

Landlord and Tenant.

TENANT IN POSSESSION.

When not competent, 662. *Ejectment*, II.

TENDER.

Of possession, 849. *Landlord and Tenant*, IX.

TENEMENT.

Settlement by renting, 686. *Poor*, XI. 1.

TERM.

TERM.

Duration of, 879. *Devise*, III. 1.

TIMBER.

What is, 815. *Poor*, VI. 4.

TIME.

I. Of vesting, 582. *Devise*, IV.

II. 1. Of commencement of lease, 644.
Landlord and Tenant, I. 5.

2. Of duration of lease, 879. *Devise*,
III. 1.

III. Relation *Relation*.

IV. "For the time being," 556. *Cor-*
poration, III.

V. "From year to year," 658. *Landlord*
and Tenant, II.

TITHINGS.

Custom to rate separately to highway
rate, 820. *Highway*, I.

TITLE.

I. Possessory, 662. *Ejectment*, II.

II. Onus of shewing, 662. *Ejectment*, II.

III. What plea does not deny landlord's,
809. *Landlord and Tenant*, XVII. 1.

TOLLS.

What application of, renders the land
rateable, 828. *Poor*, VI. 2.

TORT.

Case.

TRANSCRIPT.

Of record, 432.

TRANSFER.

In wharfinger's book, 895. *Vendor*, II. 5.

TRANSPORTATION.

I. Punishment of, 731. 784. *Habeas*
corpus, I.

II. Uncertainty in period, 731. 784.
Habeas corpus, I.

TRANSHIPMENT.

Shipping, I.

VOL. IX.

TRAVERSE.

Pleading, XXII. to XXIV.

TREES.

I. Saleable underwood, 815. *Poor*, VI.
4.

II. Malicious injury to, 704. *Trespass*,
IV. 1.

TRESPASS.

I. Mortgagor and his lessee, when tres-
passers, 342. *Mortgage*, II. 1.

II. In search of game, 654. *Game*.

III. Pleading.

1. Several pleas, when required, 457.
Plea, VII.

2. Plea of fraudulent removal, 457
Plea, VII.

IV. Malicious.

1. Jurisdiction.

A party may be convicted, under the
general clause, sect. 24, in stat. 7 &
8 G. 4. c. 30., of having wilfully and
maliciously damaged growing wood, to
the value of 6d., though sect. 20 ex-
pressly imposes a penalty for unlaw-
fully and maliciously damaging such
wood, "the injury done being to the
amount of 1s. at the least."

The proviso of sect. 24, exempting
from the penalty there imposed any
person acting under a reasonable sup-
position of right, does not oblige jus-
tices to dismiss a charge made under
that section, upon the mere statement
of the accused party that he so acted;
but, in default of proof by him, they
may judge, from all the circumstances,
whether or not the party did so act.

It is no proof of a *bonâ fide* claim
subsisting, that several parties, other
than the individual charged, have com-
mitted similar trespasses, using the
same colour of right as that which he
professes to rely upon, and that the
complainants have obtained injunctions
from the Court of Chancery against
such parties.

So held on motion for a criminal
information against magistrates who
had convicted as above.

In discharging a rule for such in-
formation, the Court refused to order
4 A payment

payment of costs by *J. S.*, who appeared to have instigated the trespasses in question, and had employed an attorney to defend the persons charged with such trespasses (including the party making the present application); *J. S.* not having sworn an affidavit or otherwise taken a direct part in obtaining the rule.

Nor would they make such order upon the attorney, who had neither made an affidavit nor otherwise acted in obtaining the rule; although affidavits in support of the rule were sworn by his clerks; and although, on the hearing of an information for one of the above-mentioned trespasses (but not that immediately in question), he had publicly uttered words, not warranted by his professional duty, encouraging persons present to commit similar trespasses. *Regina v. Dodson*, 704.

2. Bonâ fide claim of right, 704. *Antè*, I.

TRIAL.

Objections, when to be taken, 644. *Landlord and Tenant*, I. 5.

TROVER.

Pleading.

- I. What confesses a conversion.

Trover for several deer. Plea, as to the conversion of one deer, that it was wrongfully on defendant's close doing damage; wherefore defendant seized it as a distress; which seizing is the same conversion &c. Held, on special demurrer, that the plea was good without the formal commencement of actionem non, or prayer of judgment:

Held also (*Littledale J. dubitante*), that it sufficiently confessed a conversion in fact, and was not had as amounting to the plea of not guilty, or as an argumentative denial of plaintiff's possession; and that it was unnecessary to allege how defendant disposed of the distress.

Semble, that if the conversion, relied on by the plaintiff, was not the seizure, but a subsequent abuse of the distress, he must shew it in reply to the plea. *Weeding v. Aldrich*, 861.

- II. What denied by plea of not guilty, 861. *Antè*, I.

- III. What must be replied or new assigned, 861. *Antè*, I.

- IV. In action by assignees for goods sold by bankrupt two months before fiat, 303. *Pleading*, XXIV. 1.

TRUST.

Partially in aid of parish funds, 255. *Statute*, XXIII.

TRUSTEE.

- I. Fee, when not vested in, 879. *Devise*, III. 1.
- II. Of charity lands, 255. *Statute*, XXIII.
- III. Estoppel against, 255. *Statute*, XXIII.

UMPIRE.

Appointment by lot, 699. *Arbitration*, III.

UNDERLETTING.

p. 670. *Statute*, XXXIV. 1.

UNDERTENANT.

Holding over by, 849. *Landlord and Tenant*, IX.

UNDERWOOD.

p. 815. *Poor*, VI. 4.

UNION.

Poor law, 901. 911. *Poor*, I.

UPPER CANADA.

Laws of, 731. 782. *Habeas corpus*, I.

USAGE.

Of parliament, 1. *Parliament*, I.

USE AND OCCUPATION.

On holding over by under-tenant, 849. *Landlord and Tenant*, IX.

VACATION.

- I. Sittings in, by statute, 244.
- II. Habeas corpus in, 731. *Habeas corpus*, I.

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.

Transportation to, 731. *Habeas corpus*, 1.

VENDOR AND PURCHASER.

I. Of real estate.

1. Forfeiture of deposit.

Where *A.* agrees to demise a house to *B.* for a term, in consideration of 500*l.* then paid "by way of deposit, and in part of 5500*l.*," the whole purchase money, possession to be delivered and accepted on a day named, and *B.* agrees to accept such demise, but, on the day, refuses to accept, and *A.* afterwards disposes of the house to a third party, *Quære*, whether, in the absence of any provision that the deposit shall be forfeited, or of any clause in the agreement, except as above, shewing the intention of the parties in this respect, *B.* can recover the deposit from *A.*?

The intention may be collected from other parts of the agreement.

Thus, where there was a distinct clause providing that either party making default should forfeit 1000*l.*, it was held that the deposit was not to be forfeited, and might be recovered back on *A.*'s disposing of the house as above.

But that it could not be recovered back before *A.* disposed of the house.

Under the above circumstances, an action brought for the deposit after the day named in the agreement, but before *A.* had disposed of the house, having failed, was held no estoppel to an action brought after *A.* had disposed of the house. And it was held that the facts negatived a plea that the causes of the two actions were identical. *Palmer v. Temple*, 508.

2. Pleading. *Antè*, 1.

II. Sale of goods.

1. Vesting, 895. *Post*, 5.2. Transfer of delivery order, 895. *Post*, 5.3. Transfer in wharfinger's book, 895. *Post*, 5.4. Weighing when essential, 895. *Post*, 5.

5. Stoppage in transitu, when determined or not by symbolical delivery.

On a contract for the sale of goods lying in a warehouse, the handing of a delivery order to the vendee, and transfer of the goods to him in the warehouseman's book, will not vest the property in him, if something remains to be done for the purpose of ascertaining the identity or quantity of the goods; as the weighing of an article forming part of a bulk, and sold by weight.

But if the identity and quantity are ascertained, as where the oats in a particular bin, which contains nothing else, are sold, and a bill accepted at the same time for the price, the property vests, and the vendor cannot afterwards stop in transitu. Although the delivery order describes the goods by the weight as well as the bin ("1028 bushels of oats in bin 40."), and directs the warehouseman to weigh them over. *Swanwick v. Sothorn*, 895.

6. Pleading: Bonâ fide purchase two months before bankruptcy, 303. *Pleading*, XXIV. 1.

VESTED REMAINDER.

p. 582. *Devise*, IV. .

VESTING.

Of property in goods, 895. *Vendor*, II. 5.

VICAR.

p. 468. *Justice*, I.

VICTUALLER.

Custom to erect booths at a fair, 406. *Custom*, IV. 1.

VIRTUTE CUJUS.

When not traversable, 292. *Bond*, I. 1.

VOTE.

Of House of Commons, 1. *Parliament*, 1.

WAIVER.

Of notice to quit, 626. *Poor*, X. 1.

WAREHOUSEMAN.

Transfer in his books, 895. *Vendor*, II. 5.

WARRANT.

WARRANT.

Materiality of, in return to habeas corpus,
731. 804. *Habeas corpus*, I.

WAY.

Highway.

WEIGHING.

When essential to a complete delivery,
895. *Vendor*, II. 5.

WESTMINSTER.

Court of Requests Act, 499. *Plea*, IV. 2.

WHARFINGER.

Transfer in his books, 895. *Vendor*, II. 5.

WIFE.

Baron and Feme.

WILL.

I. Execution and attestation.

1. Under power of appointment, 936.
Power, I.

2. Construction of. *Devise*.III. Determination of, 857. *Landlord and Tenant*, I. 7.

WITNESS.

I. Competency. *Evidence*, II.II. Attestation, 936. *Power*, I.

WOOD.

I. Saleable underwood, 815. *Poor*, VI. 4.II. Malicious injury to, 704. *Trespass*, IV. 1.

WRIT.

I. Presumed to be pursuant to the judgment, 468. *Justice*, I.II. Misnomer of defendant, 840. *Misnomer*, I.III. Of habeas corpus ad subjiciendum,
731. *Habeas corpus*, I.IV. Of sequestration. *Sequestration*.V. Of error. *Error*.VI. Fi. fa. *Fieri facias*.VII. Elegit, 986. *Reg. Gen*.

ERRATA.

Page 94. note (a), for "1718" read "1818."

235. line 15. after the last word insert "by."

262. line 9. from bottom, transpose "where" from last to first.

273. line 1. for "demurrer" read "plea" or "pleading over."

485. last line, for "20" read "19."

503. line 10. for "defendant" read "plaintiff."

505. marginal note, last line, for "declaration" read "replication."

614. line 18. insert "it" as the last word.

686. marginal note, line 23. read "means) is bad."

731. marginal note, last line, insert "and the."

838. line 8. for "may" read "might."

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